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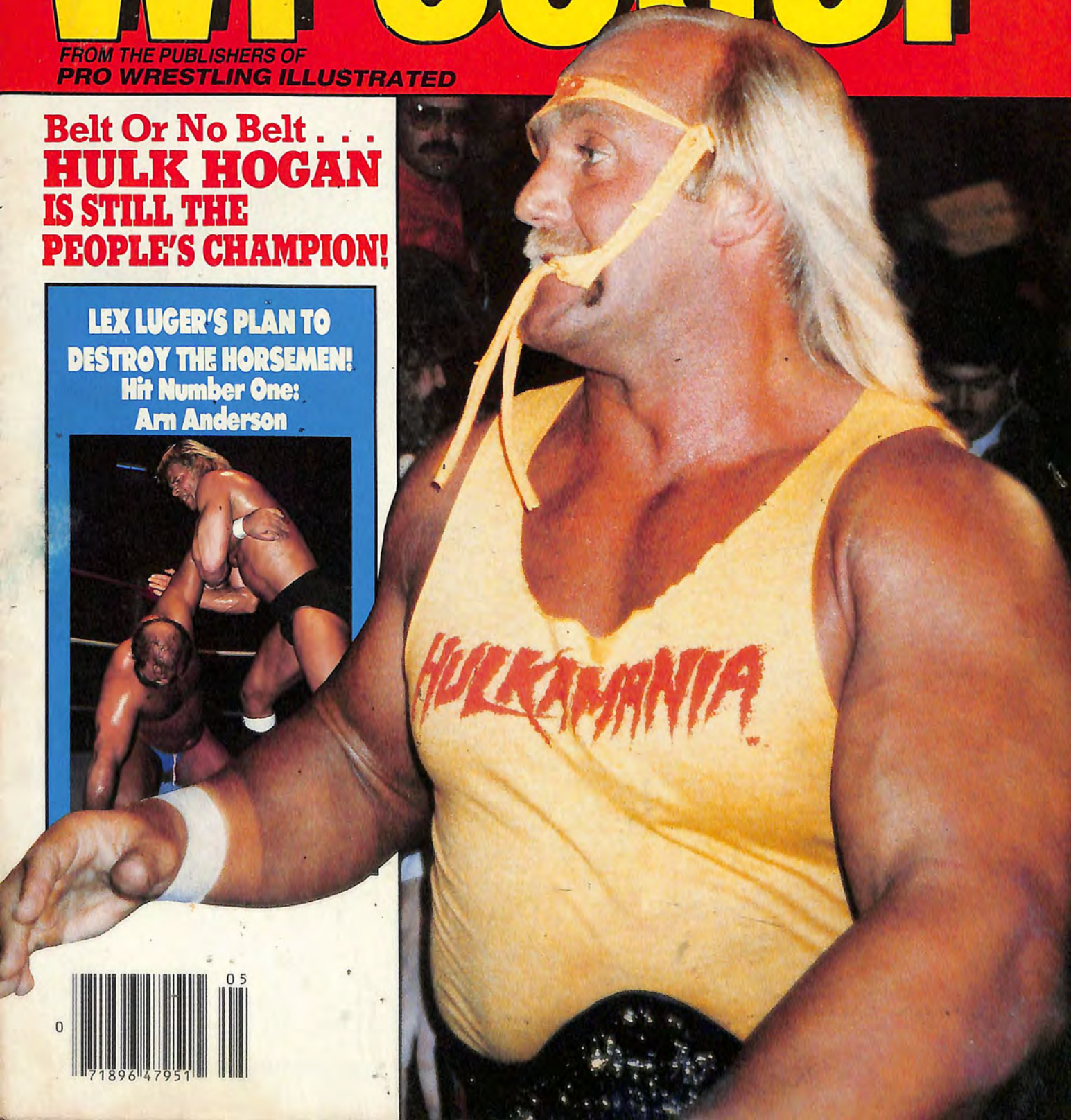
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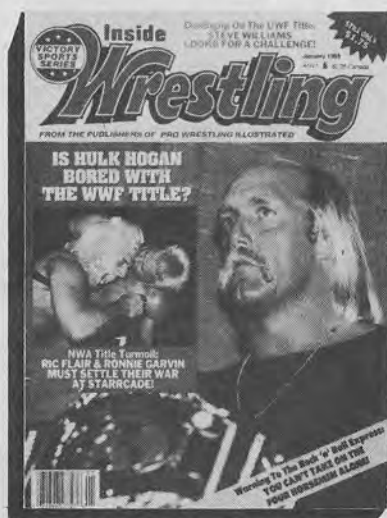
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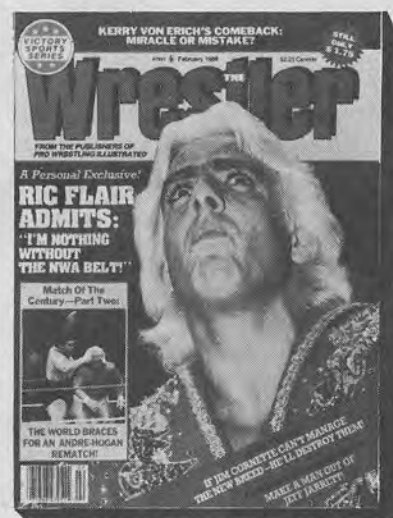
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YOUR LETTERS

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DEMOLITION POSITION

Enough is enough! For the past few months, Demolition has been a top-notch tag team, and no credit has been given them. Then I saw your article in the March 1988 issue ("They Can Stand On Their Own: Don't Compare Demolition To The Road Warriors").

But after reading this article, I saw that we were right back where we started. How dare you compare Demolition to a pair of stiffs like Paul Roma and Jim Powers, a pair of prelim wrestlers who got a few lucky pins. Ax and Smash are accomplished veterans, not an "up-and-coming team."

Damn right they shouldn't be compared to the "Road Glorias!" I'll give you three reasons why they would defeat Hawk and Animal:

1—Mr. Fuji. Fuji is a great manager who knows how to control Ax and Smash. Ellering himself has said he has trouble getting Hawk and Animal to listen to him.

2—Attitude. Ax and Smash do what needs to be done in order to win. They haven't gone soft and don't care what the fans think. Just ask Ken Patera and Billy Jack Haynes!

3—Overconfidence. You said your-



Ax has Bob Orton on the mat while Smash waits for the tag. Reader Mike Nyerges has several reasons why Demolition would beat The Road Warriors.

self that the Warriors' response to Demolition was laughter. Obviously those idiots don't realize who they are laughing at.

So go ahead, you Road Warrior fans, don't pay Demolition any respect. We'll see which team ends up with a pair of world title belts first. Then who'll have the last laugh?

MIKE NYERGES
Cleveland

[Editors' note: More fuel for the Warriors-Demolition debate can be found in the Summer 1988 edition of Wrestling Superstars (on sale March 22)

where we present a "Superstar Dream Match" between the two teams.]

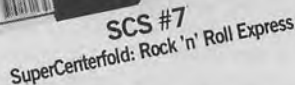
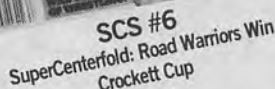
DEFENDING MACHO MAN

I am writing in response to Ron Taggart's letter in your February 1988 issue ("Macho's Madness"). Mr. Taggart stated that Randy Savage knows no scientific wrestling moves. Well, Ron, you must not have seen the Savage-Steamboat match at WrestleMania III, a true classic with plenty of scientific moves used by

(Continued on page 56)

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WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

"THE AMERICAN DREAM"
Dusty Rhodes fought off one of the most talent-laden fields ever to win his third consecutive Bunkhouse Stampede championship on January 24 at Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, Long Island.

Rhodes eliminated **Konga the Barbarian** after 30 minutes of heated action which included such NWA superstars as **Road Warrior Animal**, **Tully Blanchard**, **Arn Anderson**, **Lex Luger**, **The Warlord**, and **Ivan Koloff**. Seven of the eight men gained berths in the \$500,000 final by winning preliminary Stampedes during December and January at arenas throughout the country. Rhodes advanced to the finals when he won a wildcard steel cage match on January 1 in Atlanta.

"This is one of the greatest moments of my career," said Rhodes, whose victory stunned the live crowd of 7,000 at the Coliseum and thousands more watching on pay-per-view TV. "People said I couldn't do it, they said 'The Dream' was too old and the competition was too tough, but I got down and showed these people that 'The Dream' will never die."

The Stampede was fought in a steel cage and the wrestlers,



For the third year in a row, Dusty Rhodes (elbowsmashing Arn Anderson) is the Bunkhouse Stampede champion. Eight men took part in the brutal final match at Long Island's Nassau Coliseum. Rhodes won by shoving Konga the Barbarian over the top of the cage.

dressed in street clothes, were allowed to bring anything they wanted to the ring. Nearly 15 minutes passed before a wrestler was eliminated. Finally, Ivan Koloff was sent over the top of the cage by Animal. But Animal and Warlord were eliminated moments later when Konga charged Animal and knocked both men through the cage door.

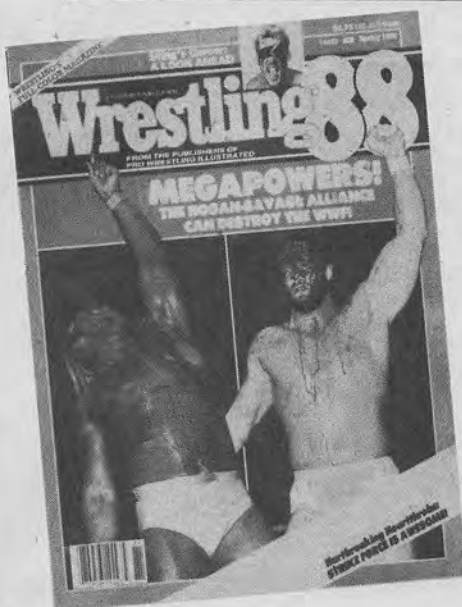
Blanchard, Anderson, and Luger, who have engaged in a vio-

lent feud over the past few months, were next to go. Tully and Arn teamed up near the door to knock out Luger, but all three men toppled to the arena floor, leaving only Dusty and Konga. This appeared to be a mismatch, as Konga is one of the strongest men in wrestling. Indeed, Konga was on the verge of victory when he tried to push Rhodes out the door, but Dusty battled back valiantly.

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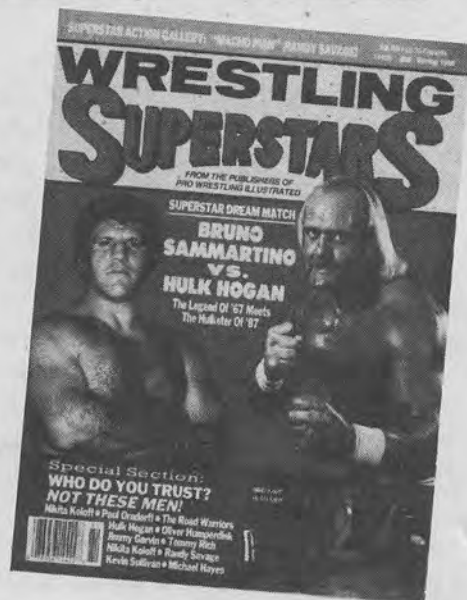
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CORRESPONDENTS

REPORTS

Atlanta, GA (Correspondent—Steve D. Hendrix): The NWA rang in the new year with a spectacular card here in The Omni as Lex Luger teamed with Ole Anderson to face NWA World tag champs Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson in a non-title match.

The match was brutal, as expected, with Ole and Lex taking inspiration from the roar of the huge crowd. Tully and Arn were completely overwhelmed as Luger and Ole continually drove them from the ring.

Ole seemed quite intent on taking every one of his frustrations out on Arn and Tully, and he accomplished just this as he pounded both men senseless. But when Ole tagged off to Lex, the bloodshed began in earnest. Lex tossed the Horsemen around the ring like rag dolls, and it looked like the match was over as "The Total Package" clamped his "torture rack" backbreaker on Arn.

J.J. Dillon then entered the fray, and was met head-on by an enraged Ole. While J.J. occupied Ole, Tully slammed Luger with a chair, freeing Arn from the backbreaker.

The champions then proceeded to try to bust Luger's head open with the chair. Ole tried to save his partner, but he was cut off by



Lex Luger bearhugs Tully Blanchard, his former partner. Luger and another former Horseman, Ole Anderson, wrestled Tully and Arn Anderson in Atlanta.

referee Tommy Young. Tully took advantage of the referee's distraction and set the chair in the corner. Arn prepared to slam Luger into the waiting chair, but Lex turned Arn around and slammed *him* into the chair. Young turned around just in time to see Luger pinning Arn, made the three-count, and gave Lex and Ole the victory.

In other bouts: Dusty Rhodes won a trip to the Bunkhouse

Stampede finals by winning a wild-card battle royal . . . Ric Flair retained his NWA World title by pinning Michael Hayes—with his feet on the ropes . . . Road Warrior Animal defeated The Warlord by disqualification . . . Ron Garvin pinned Eddie Gilbert . . . Barry Windham retained his Western States title with a time-limit draw against Larry Zbyszko . . . The Shepherders cheated past Robert Gibson & Ricky Santana (who replaced an injured Rick Morton) . . . Jim Garvin, Ricky Santana, & Sting whipped Kevin Sullivan, Terry Taylor, & Mike Rotundo.

Duluth, MN (Correspondent—Dale Sterling): The main event of a fantastic card at the Duluth Arena pitted The Honky Tonk Man, with Peggy Sue in his corner, against Randy "Macho Man" Savage, with Elizabeth in his corner. Special guest referee for the match was four-time former AWA World champion Nick Bockwinkel.

After several minutes of action, Honky Tonk threw Savage outside the ring and over the barrier gate. Savage managed to recover, and when he got back into the ring, he started an offensive. During a heated exchange, Honky Tonk threw Savage into Bockwinkel,

(Continued on page 50)

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Q: "My question is for The Rock 'n' Roll Express: Do you two ever wish you had a manager? I know that you are both good wrestlers and everything, but would you ever want a manager?"—Debra McMahon, Anderson, SC

A: "You've got to be kidding," Rick Morton replied when queried. "Robert and I are both old enough to book our own airline tickets and hotel rooms and get to the matches on time. Why should we pay a manager a cut of our earnings to do something we can do ourselves? Plus, a lot of managers try to force their own way of doing things on their wrestlers. Robert and I have done all right by ourselves, wouldn't you agree?" Robert Gibson agreed: "Right. But it comes down to a lot more than booking rooms and all that. I think that a manager hurts as much as he helps. When a wrestler comes out with a manager in tow, that means he's not smart enough or talented enough to stand on his own. A real man fights his own battles."

Q: "I'm curious to know what Sting looks for in his ideal woman."—Anne Marie Gismondi, Tulsa, OK

A: "I look for a girl who's in good

YOU ASKED US

Here's the monthly feature which **YOU** get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer **YOUR** questions!

Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones! Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to: **YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, PO Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.** Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion.

shape, mentally and physically, and is always striving to improve herself, no matter what kind of condition she finds herself in," the rising star explained. "A personality and interest in things outside of herself is another turn-on. I don't like airheads."

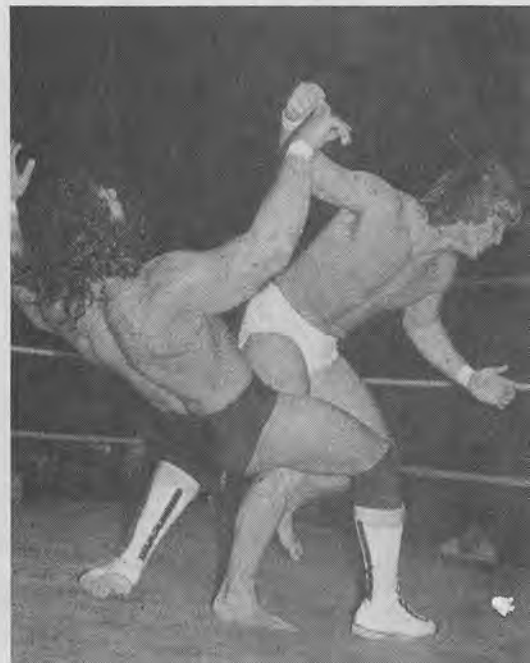
Q: "I have a question for Greg Gagne: Now that you have won the AWA TV title, will you only defend it against rulebreakers, while backing down from scientific wrestlers?"—Robert Bakshi, New London, CT

A: "Backing down is something I'll never do," Gagne said. "Any wrestler who wants a shot at this belt will get it, as long as I have a say in the matter. You'll agree with me that champions who only wrestle one category of challenger are not really champions, but half-champions. Totally ignoring one-half of a federation is no way to conduct yourself."

Q: "My question is for Kevin Von Erich: It looks to me like your brother Kerry will win the World Class title before you do. Are you angry because he's pushing you further out of title contention?"—Eric Martin, Tempe, AZ



Sting may be thinking about his ideal woman. The former UWF tag team champion left Eddie Gilbert's management and has become one of wrestling's brightest prospects.



Kevin Von Erich connects on Al Perez. Kevin says he and Kerry help each other in their quests for Perez's World Class title.

A: "That's nonsense," Kevin replied.

"First of all, I'm still very much in contention for the title. Al Perez isn't done with me by a long shot. There's plenty of room for both me and Kerry to get title shots. And it's ridiculous to suggest that

(Continued on page 48)

THE VIDEOTAPE EVENT OF THE YEAR!



Slant-Eyed Slaughter

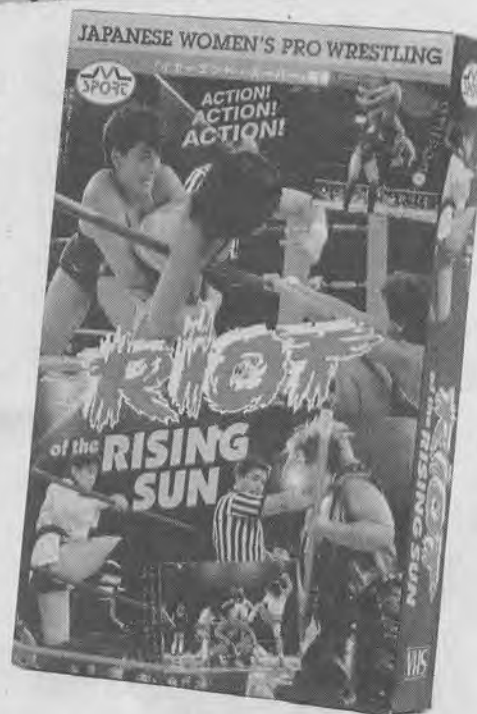
(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
- Nancy Kumi vs. Lucy Kayama
- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Tarantula
- "Crush Girl" Lioness Asuka vs. "Crush Girl" Chigusa Nagayo

You've heard about them . . . you've read about them . . . now you can see them for yourself! Japanese women wrestlers are among the most agile, athletic, acrobatic—and vicious—competitors in the entire mat world. Now, two sensational videotapes bring the dynamic action of Japanese women's wrestling into your own home!

Sample The Excitement!

Jaguar Yokota, The Crush Girls, Devil Masami, The Jumping Bomb Angels, Dump Matsumoto—these are the legends of Japanese women's wrestling. They're all here, and more—including American superstar Wendi Richter. These matches, direct from Japanese television, include the kind of action that, until now, only satellite dish owners or Japanese fans could enjoy. These tapes are certain to become valued collectors' items. They include *complete* matches, not match excerpts!



Riot Of The Rising Sun

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Yukari Omori & Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori vs. Noriyo Tateno & Itysuki Yamasaki—"The Jumping Bomb Angels"
- Masked You & Kaoru "Dump" Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Chigusa Nagayo—"The Crush Girls"
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Las Galactia
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. "Devil" Masami

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In the past, you might have expected to spend upwards of \$59.95, \$69.95, or more for tapes of this quality. But now, for a limited time only, you can order **Slant-Eyed Slaughter** and **Riot Of The Rising Sun** for the special low price of only \$29.95 each (plus \$3.00 postage and handling). Witness all the excitement and thrills of Japanese women's wrestling—in your own home.

SPECIAL NOTE: These tapes, distributed by Powersports Video in association with American Video, are being sold exclusively for a limited time only in the United States by T.V. Sports. Both tapes include English play-by-play commentary recorded alongside the original Japanese commentary and crowd noise. While the English commentary is poor, the action level and match quality of these bouts more than makes up for it. We're convinced you'll be *completely* satisfied by these programs.

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Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



Thumbs Up to Jerry Lawler. The "King of Memphis" has, in the last month, engaged in a stirring series of scientific matches against former enemy Bill Dundee. Lawler won many of the early matches, and narrowly missed victory later on in the series when a spiteful Terry Taylor interfered. But it was heartening to see Lawler and Dundee's hard-earned friendship survive this latest test. Perhaps this time, their friendship will truly last.



Thumbs Up to Big Bubba Rogers. This massive individual has finally come to grips with his vast potential by resigning his position as Jim Cornette's bodyguard to devote himself to full-time wrestling, this time in the WWF. Fans will recall that the last time Bubba wrestled, he made a stunning debut by beating One Man Gang for the UWF heavyweight championship. We at *The Wrestler* are sure that Cornette's loss will turn out to be the WWF's gain.

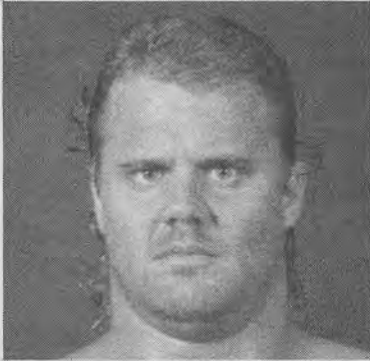


Thumbs Up to Greg Gagne. Too small. Too naive about the rules. Only gets by on his father's name. Can't win the big one. Will never win a singles belt. This second-generation star has had all of these charges leveled at him throughout his career, but his recent victory over Adrian Adonis for the newly formed AWA TV title and his tough battles with Curt Hennig for the heavyweight strap have silenced many of his critics. We're happy to see such class rising to the top.



Thumbs Up to Jason the Terrible. The grappler in the hockey goalie's mask has pleased fans in the Stampede area by breaking with the evil Zodiac, mending his rulebreaking ways, and lending his aid to Owen Hart's crusade against the nefarious Karachi Vice gang of rulebreakers. Jason's change of heart restores our faith in the possibility that even the most vicious rulebreaker can be converted to the honorable tenets of sportsmanship and fair play.

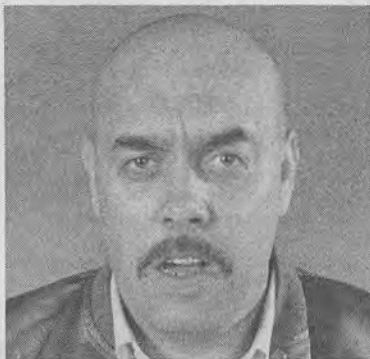
Thumbs Down



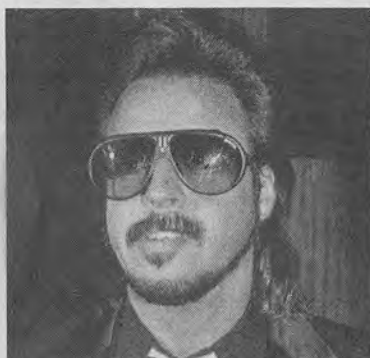
Thumbs Down to Curt Hennig. The AWA World champion's classless reaction to winning the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* "Most Improved Wrestler Of The Year" Achievement '87 award shows that he still has a lot of growing up to do. Rather than be glad that 15,568 fans were impartial enough to judge him by his wrestling skills and not his rulebreaking attitude, Hennig loudly maintained that he should have won "Wrestler Of The Year." Count your blessings, Curt! Hulk Hogan deserved that award more than you did.



Thumbs Down to Kevin Sullivan. We'd like to start by saying that we weren't fooled for a moment. Never for a second did we think that Sullivan's recent conversion from rulebreaker to fan favorite was anything but a sinister plot to strengthen his own hand. Once again, the incorrigible madman proved us right by quickly reverting to his rulebreaking ways. But not before seducing Mike Rotundo to the dark side of the sport and corrupting "Dr. Death" Steve Williams as well.



Thumbs Down to Gary Hart. The World Class manager gave new meaning to the phrase "crocodile tears" when he mildly denounced the "New Freebirds'" disgraceful attack on Fritz Von Erich. Hart said he'd "never consider attacking an old man" when, in the past, he has done exactly that. The Von Erich patriarch has already suffered enough without having his wounds salted by such blatant hypocrisy. In fact, recent evidence holds that Hart may have been behind the attack after all!

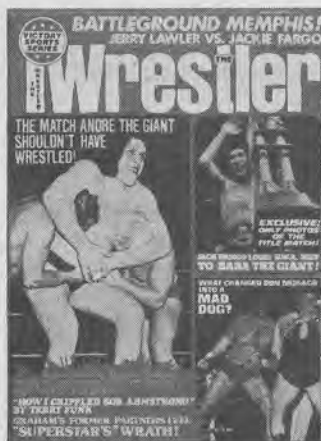


Thumbs Down to Jimmy Hart. Enough is enough! Opponents and fans alike have long despised the megaphone-toting manager's constant interference in his wrestlers' matches, but now he's totally out of control! At a recent WWF card in Philadelphia, he interfered in *all four* of his wrestlers' matches. The WWF must stop this! In one of The Honky Tonk Man's title defenses, Hart was suspended in a steel cage above ringside. We recommend that the WWF make this arrangement permanent! □



Wrestler

Don't miss a single issue of the magazine that has thrilled wrestling fans for two generations, **THE WRESTLER**. Complete your collection of the most respected wrestling publication in the world today. Supplies are limited. Don't delay—order today!



JUNE 1975

June 1975/Stories include: Andre, Muraco, Funk, Lawler.

August 1975/Stories include: Sammartino, Patterson, Stasiak, Rivera.

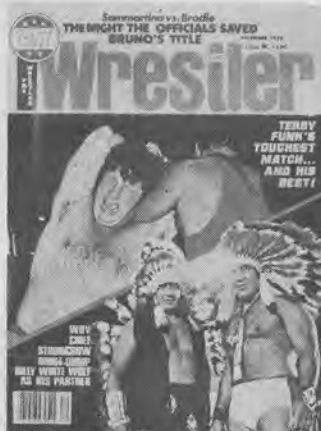
December 1975/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, McDaniel, Blackjacks.

February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Sammartino, Rhodes, Valentine.

July 1976/Stories include: Andre, Wrestling II, Inoki, Von Erich.

November 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Valentine, Mosca.

December 1976/Stories include: Von Erich, Mulligan, Brody, Funk.



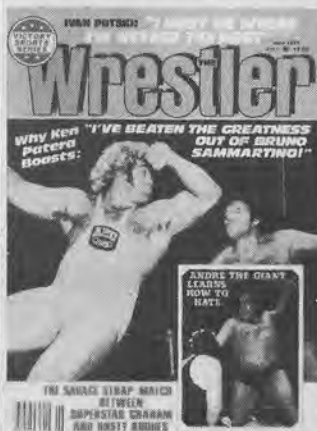
DECEMBER 1976

January 1977/Stories include: Brody, Andre, Wrestling II, Mascaras.

February 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Jones, Funk, Von Raschke.

April 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Funk, Flair, Bockwinkel.

May 1977/Stories include: Mascaras, Valiants, Andersons, Sammartino.



JUNE 1977

June 1977/Stories include: Patera, Putski, Hernandez, McDaniel.

July 1977/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Rocca, Mascaras.

October 1977/Stories include: Rhodes, Sammartino, Flair, Snuka.

November 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Slater, Mascaras, Snuka.

September 1978/Stories include: Rhodes, Grammas, Andre, Mascaras.

October 1978/Stories include: Sammartino, Backlund, McDaniel, Race.

November 1978/Stories include: Flair, Andre, Ladd, Graham.

December 1978/Stories include: Brisco, Mulligan, Andre, Blanchard.

February 1979/Stories include: Ladd, Flair, Idol, Heenan.

May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Valiants, Race.

July 1979/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Sammartino, Andre.

August 1979/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Patera, Stevens, Superstar.

September 1979/Stories include: Superstar Gramham, Cyclone Negro, Greg Gagne, Mil Mascaras.

October 1979/Stories include: Flair, Valentine, Santana, Muraco.

December 1979/Stories include: Andre, Graham, Rhodes, Mascaras.

January 1980/Stories include: Race, Backlund, Snuka, Brisco.

February 1980/Stories include: Andre, Flair, DiBiase, Superstar.

March 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Andre.

April 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, DiBiase, Youngblood, Wrestling II.

May 1980/Stories include: Andre, Mascaras, Bockwinkel, Patera.

June 1980/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.

August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

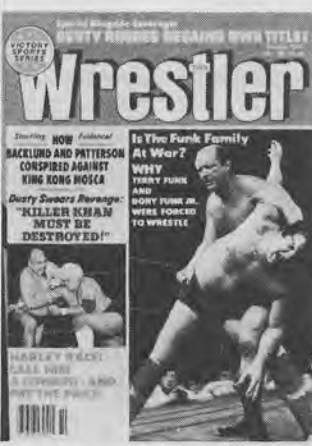
May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

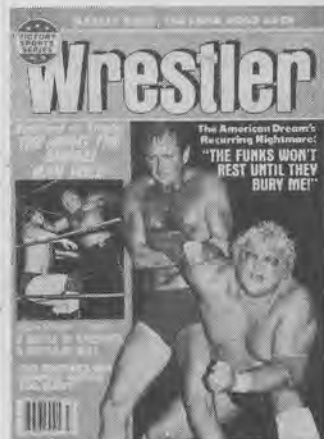
July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.



OCTOBER 1981



DECEMBER 1981

December 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Steele, Race, Hogan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

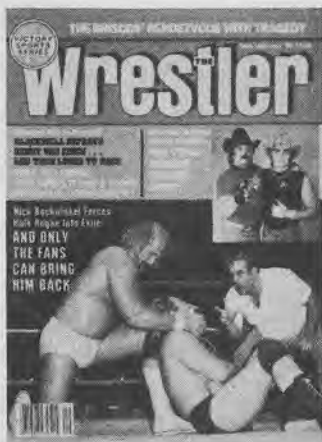
April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.



SEPTEMBER 1983

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Brisco.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Brisco, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

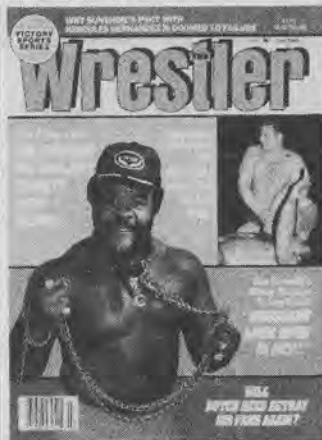
February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.

June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.



JULY 1985

July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

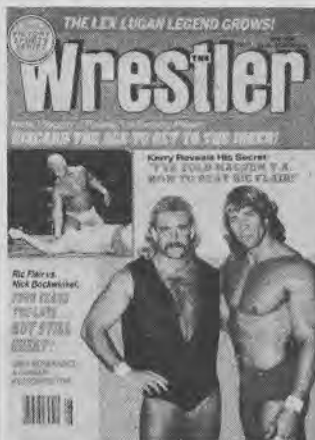
January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

March 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.

April 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Lugar, Hogan, Magnum T.A.

May 1986/Stories include: Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.



JUNE 1986

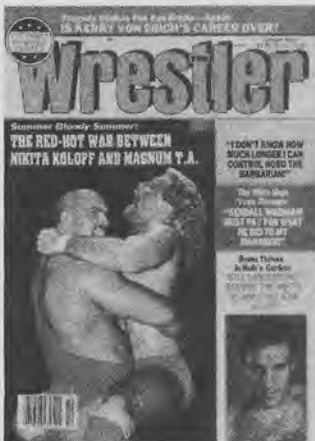
June 1986/Stories include: Lugar, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.

July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.

August 1986/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.

September 1986/Stories include: Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.

October 1986/Stories include: Nikita-Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.



OCTOBER 1986

November 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.

December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.

January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvins, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.

February 1987/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.

March 1987/Stories include: Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

May 1987/Stories include: Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig.

June 1987/Stories include: Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.

July 1987/Stories include: Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.

August 1987/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.

September 1987/Stories include: Koloffs, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.

October 1987/Stories include: Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.

November 1987/Stories include: Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.

December 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.

January 1988/Stories include: Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.

February 1988/Stories include: Flair, Andre-Hogan, New Breed, Kerry.

March 1988/Stories include: Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.

April 1988/Special issue! Starrcade '87, Survivor Series, AWA & World Class. Also: Strike Force, Luger, Rockers.

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INTRODUCING MITCH SNOW

Mitch Snow's story is more than the chronicle of a talented young grappler bound for success. It's the story of a young boy who had to overcome great odds before he could even climb into the ring

AS A YOUNG boy growing up in Newport News, Virginia, Mitch Snow watched wrestling on TV. And, like many of his classmates, he dreamed of someday earning glory in the squared circle.

But nine-year-old Mitch was confined to a wheelchair, the result of a dislocated hip suffered while playing football three years earlier. Doctors had told the boy he would be permanently disabled.

But young Mitch refused to give up. And 13 years later, a graceful and powerful Snow would come tantalizingly close to winning Curt Hennig's AWA World title. The story of how he overcame his disability to excel in such a demanding sport is a heartening tale of remarkable courage.

Mitch himself explains: "I was home recovering after the injury, and my mother had to help me into the bathroom all the time. One day she was busy in the kitchen when I decided to try to get back in my wheelchair by myself. I didn't get one step before I fell, but I had felt something move, some sensation in my leg. From then on, I knew I was going to get up out of that wheelchair."

The young boy undertook an intense program of physical therapy. He learned to crawl, then walk, all over again. He began swimming and running for miles each day, gaining power and speed until he soon outstripped his classmates.

By the eighth grade, doctors pronounced him fit enough to engage in organized sports. Mitch wasted no time hitting the mat. Not content with just regaining his health, Mitch went on to excel in athletics, winning three straight high school state championships from 1983 through 1985.

(Continued on page 20)



Thirteen years ago, Mitch Snow was barely able to walk. Today, he is one of wrestling's up-and-coming contenders. Snow's story is truly inspiring.



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INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 18)



Snow executes a rolling headlock on Dick Slater, whose interference may have cost him the AWA World title. The 22-year-old grappler works hard to develop strategies and utilize maneuvers that will give him a strong competitive edge.

He was a 142-pound national champion for Elon college, training for the Olympic team, when he called the offices of Jim Crockett Promotions for a tryout. Scouts there were impressed, and Snow made his ring debut against seasoned veteran Nelson Royal in Columbia, South Carolina, later that year.

As a rookie he wrestled in the Central States area, where he clashed with men such as Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson, before he moved on to Florida, where he teamed with Kendall Windham and Brady Boone.

He also became close friends with Robert Gibson of the Rock 'n' Roll Express; the two men employ a similar style of alternating power moves with speed. The link between them is symbolized by the bandana Snow wears around his right wrist; it was given to him by a female fan who received it from Gibson.

Another break for Snow came when veteran Wahoo McDaniel

took the promising rookie under his wing. When McDaniel left for the AWA in August 1987, he persuaded Snow to follow him, convincing him that he would progress faster in the AWA.

Wahoo was right. Snow rose rapidly through the ranks of the AWA, developing two potent finishing moves to complement his extensive amateur repertoire: the "jam slam," a combination hiptoss/belly-to-belly suplex that is more devastating than either move alone, and a variation of the piledriver in which he stretches his opponent parallel to the ring an instant before impact. Adding these to the pure athletic ability that allows him to execute backflips from the top rope made Snow an exceptionally well-rounded matman.

This combination of power and speed would result in victories over some of the top names in the AWA: muscleman Kevin Kelly, Russian powerhouse Soldat Ustinov, and Canadian star Nick

Kiniski. His greatest victory of the last year came in the second week of October when he pinned Larry Zbyszko (As Zbyszko was going for a press-slam, Snow caught him in a small package.) Within a month, he had his title shot against Hennig.

In that match, Snow had Hennig stunned with his "jam slam"; unfortunately, Hennig's foot hit referee Gary DeRusha, who lay dazed while Snow covered Hennig for a three-count. At this point, Dick Slater interfered on Hennig's behalf, allowing Hennig to attack Snow from behind and pin him just as DeRusha recovered.

"Sure it was a disappointment," Snow said of the match, "but I've overcome more serious obstacles than Hennig and Slater in my lifetime. I plan to continue my quest for the AWA title, and I'd also like to find a partner to team with on a regular basis."

Snow's future in the sport appears bright. In addition to possessing dazzling good looks, Snow is mature beyond his 22 years. He is selfless, personable, and dedicated. Because of his early health problems, Mitch is a strong supporter of the "Say No To Drugs" campaign and makes frequent guest appearances at high schools to stress to kids the danger of chemical abuse.

"We only have one body," he explained, "and I was lucky enough to get a second chance at walking. I don't like to see anyone abuse the privilege of health, and if I can be an inspiration to anyone or talk anyone out of using drugs, then I know I've made a contribution to someone's life."

While he may lack a title at present, Snow has already overcome championship-caliber odds to reach his place in the sport. He's almost certain to go much, much farther. □

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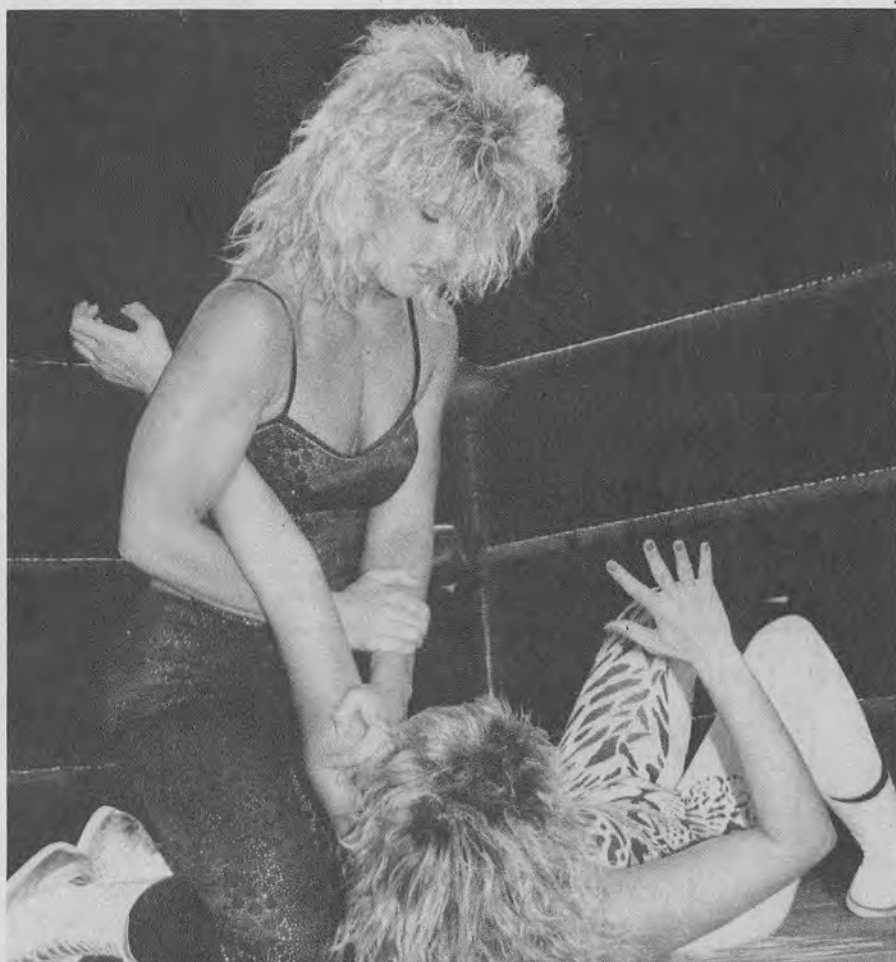
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Q&A

Each month, *The Wrestler* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in the fans' minds



Madusa Miceli armbars Candi Devine on her way to winning the AWA women's title left vacant by Sherri Martel's departure. Miceli's victory, however, was tainted by outside interference from Nick Kiniski, one of the men she manages.

Q: Madusa, congratulations on your victory over Candi Devine for the AWA women's title. Most people gave you little chance against the more experienced Devine. But there's been a lot of controversy. Didn't Nick Kiniski's interference, in fact, help you win the title?

A: What? There was no interference. I defeated Candi Devine fair and square. "Slick Nick" Kiniski was there just to guard my back and keep an eye on the crowd, because I can't trust either the crowd or the referees. I defeated Devine because I am younger, faster, stronger, and better prepared, both mentally and physically. And I am so glad that "Slick Nick" was there to see it happen, as I will be there when he and "Mr. Magnificent" become the new AWA tag team champs.

Q: But you can't deny, for instance, that Kevin Kelly has interfered in your matches with Devine. He came into the ring and held Candi while you attacked her. The match was on ESPN, so how do you justify such a cowardly action?

A: What happened in that match was that Kevin could no longer stand the way Candi was cheating, so he felt that he had to come to my defense and stop her. I was a trifle angry myself, so I decided to take advantage of the situation to discipline and embarrass Devine. And it paid off, because the next time I wrestled her for the title, she was a

MADUSA MICELI



FROM LIGHTLY REGARDED valet to holder of a world title, AWA women's champion Madusa Miceli has come a long way during the past year. The lovely 22-year-old native of Milan, Italy, gained instant fame when she upset Candi Devine in Las Vegas two days after Christmas in the finals of the AWA World women's championship tournament.

But as observers have come to expect with Madusa, the decision was not without controversy. Several ringsiders reported seeing Nick Kiniski, one of the wrestlers Madusa has managed in "The Perfect Tag Team" (along with "Mr. Magnificent" Kevin Kelly), interfere on her behalf.

But the decision stood.

Now, as both champion and manager, Miceli will be called upon to make frequent title defenses while continuing to guide Kiniski and Kelly to the AWA World tag team championship currently held by The Midnight Rockers.

The new champion projects two images. Out of the ring she is stylish, well-spoken, and relaxed to the point of seeming demure. But near the ring, the tempestuous blonde becomes a raging tigress. Both qualities were evident during the interview she gave The Wrestler Senior Editor Bill Apter in Minneapolis that, like so many of her matches, ended in outside interference.



With Kiniski standing proudly at her side, Miceli claims the championship belt. Miceli now must add title defenses to her duties as manager of Kiniski and Kevin Kelly. They are after The Midnight Rockers' AWA tag team belts.

beaten woman as soon as she stepped through the ropes. Maybe some people did not like it, but all's well that ends well, *n'est pas?*

Q: So that's your justification for having two of the biggest men in the AWA interfere in a ladies' match. That had to be one of the most disgraceful things I've ever seen!

A: *Caro mio!* You have to understand that both Nick and "Mr. Magnificent" are very protective of me, although I try to tell them I can take care of myself. But it certainly is a comfort to have them behind me all the time. I'm always looking out for their best interests, so it was very good to see that the feeling was mutual!

Q: Since you've been their valet . . .

A: Valet?! I am a *manager*, not a valet! I book their matches, manage their travel schedule, and work out strategies. I have come a long way from the days when I would just hold their robes, wouldn't you agree? Don't be such a *stronzo*, Apter!

Q: Certainly, Madusa. But there's also such a thing as overextending oneself. Aren't you concerned that the demands of managing Kelly and Kiniski while defending your title might prove too much for you?

A: I certainly do not see any problem in doing both. Kevin and Nick have perfect faith that I can manage them to the AWA tag title, and I am sure that I could defend



Miceli regains the advantage on Devine at the ropes. The champion has made an unusual offer: She will pay \$5,000 to any *male* wrestler who can pin her. So far, there have been no takers—probably because no one trusts her or her men.

my belt against any woman now in the AWA with one arm tied behind my back. There is simply no woman who can beat me!

Q: While we're on the subject, I wanted to ask your opinion of some of the other women's champions in America, starting with NWF champion Misty Blue Simmes.

A: Well, Misty Blue probably worries me the least. Sure, she can fight like a cornered alley cat, but she is a bit on the small side, so she'd be easy to overpower.

Q: And WWC champion Wendi Richter?

A: Wendi deserves a lot of credit for giving women's wrestling a big shot in the arm a couple of years back, but I think her best days are already behind her. I am the future of women's wrestling!

Q: How about Sensational Sherri Martel, the current WWF women's champ who preceded you as both AWA champion and manager of

"Mr. Magnificent"?

A: Well, to settle one thing right off, "Mr. Magnificent" never tires of telling me about what a better manager I am. And as for wrestling, well, I had a number of matches with her last spring, and though I didn't take the title, I think that anyone who saw those matches was convinced that I was about to win the title. I think that was one of the main reasons she fled the AWA. I would like to sum up by saying that I fear no woman—and very few men besides.

Q: This brings us to our next point. Am I to understand that you have a standing offer of \$5,000 to any male wrestler who can beat you?

A: *Exacto.* I will give \$5,000 to any male wrestler, heavyweight, lightweight, middleweight, whatever, who can pin my shoulders to the mat.

Q: Well, I'm not a male chauvinist, but I do believe that you're defi-

nately biting off more than you can chew. This is preposterous!

A: Not at all, *caro* Bill. Myself and "The Perfect Tag Team" have been suffering from an acute lack of competition. So, like a big corporation, we decided to use a three-part incentive program. Our other deals include \$10,000 to anyone who can beat "Mr. Magnificent" and \$5,000 to any man who can beat "Slick Nick" in under 15 minutes. We get more challengers, and we have yet to pay out one cent.

Q: Some would say that the only reason that you use these challenges is to lure your opponents into positions where they can be double- or even triple-teamed by you and your men. Any reaction?

A: Of course I have a reaction. You are wrong. Again, you are being a *stronzo*, Apter.

Q: And what exactly is a *stronzo*?

A: It is a word they use in my hometown of Milan to describe a person who drinks red and white wine at the same meal, or who always has his shirttail sticking out. The French call it being *gauche*.

Q: I'll double-check that when I get back to New York. Now, how about your plans for "The Perfect Tag Team"?

A: Kevin and Nick, *caro*, are the ultimate tag team. It is like having both a Ferrari and Lamborghini in your driveway. It's hard to say which one is better, but you know that both can beat anyone else! So it is just a matter of time before we beat those *mozzarella* Midnight Rockers. They are so pretty, jumping around the ring like dancers, but they do not have our power. We will squash them like grapes!

Q: I don't think that it will be that easy, because the Rockers are considered one of the finest teams in the sport. It will take more than threats to beat them.

A: But of course! And, of course, I have made a beautiful plan . . .

(At this point Nick Kiniski enters the room and takes over the inter-

(Continued on page 60)

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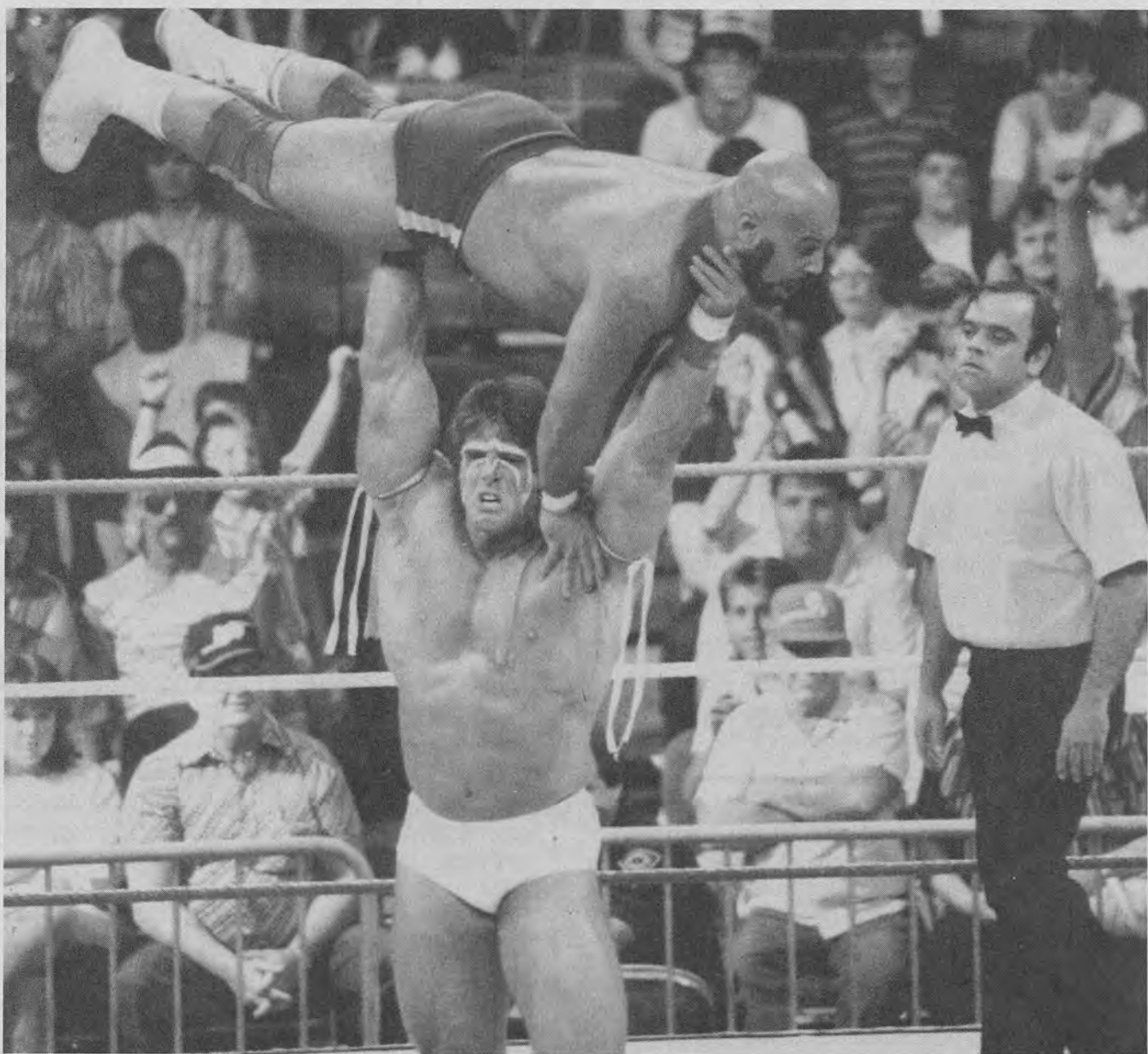
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THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

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Although he has the power to press Jose Estrada over his head, The Ultimate Warrior lacks critical wrestling skills. With some scientific training, this WWF grappler would be a clear favorite to win a major championship.



CAPT. LOU ALBANO

"Lemme tell ya something, daddy, The Ultimate Warrior is a bruiser, he's one of the biggest men I've ever seen, he has muscles the size of a tree trunk, but he's very, very green, and he's been advised very poorly. The man has all the tools to become a great one, but he's just a brawler and has no scientific ability. I've seen them all, I've seen all the great champions, and they all have at least a modicum of wrestling skills. He'd better get started."

Capt. Lou Albano, long known as "The Guiding Light," has guided 13 tag teams to an unmatched 16 WWF World tag team titles.



KILLER KOWALSKI

"I've followed The Ultimate Warrior ever since he was Rock with Sting in The Blade Runners, and then he was Dingo Warrior in Texas, and it's always amazed me that a guy this big and strong doesn't use the talents God gave him. He's a fighter, but he should be tearing people to shreds. If you ask me, he lacks the killer instinct, and until he develops it he's not gonna go anywhere. Now I see he's following the fans, and that's gonna destroy him even worse."

Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rulebreakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachusetts.



PROF. TORU TANAKA

"Ultimate Warrior is very big and has many powers, but it is very important in this sport to develop scientific and martial arts skills. I have seen him overpower many great men, but nobody will take him seriously until he takes off that Halloween mask and learns how to wrestle. I would also advise him to get smart manager to advise him. He does not know where he is going and I would not be surprised to see him never get title shot."

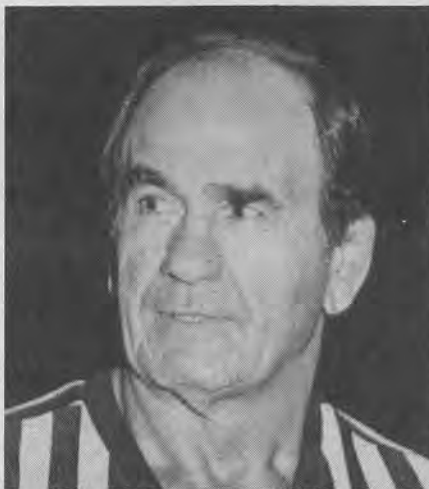
Prof. Tanaka, a three-time co-holder of the WWF World tag team title with Mr. Fuji, is currently a successful actor.



LARRY HENNIG

"You fools are so quick to start drooling over these big musclemen when the truth is that brains and wrestling ability is what makes a wrestler great. This isn't bodybuilding, it's wrestling, and only in a two-bit federation like the WWF can a man like Hulk Hogan become champion. If Ultimate Warrior went anywhere else, he'd find himself in a heap of trouble. But since he's in the WWF, his power might get him somewhere. I wouldn't be surprised."

Larry "The Ax" Hennig is a four-time former AWA World tag team champion; he held three of those titles with Harley Race.



LOU THESZ

"With some good advice, good teaching, and enough patience, Ultimate Warrior can develop into one of the great stars of the game. But only if he does his homework, and that's what troubles me. I've heard through the grapevine that he doesn't want to learn, and that's very bad news. This is an overpowering man with great strength and great dedication to training. That's a step in the right direction. Now he has to take the next step."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.



JACK BRISCO

"I like him. I hear all this talk about how The Ultimate Warrior has to develop as a scientific wrestler and, it might surprise you to hear me saying this, but I don't agree. He's special. He's bigger, stronger, and more powerful than everybody else. He already has the edge he needs. All he needs now is a couple of breaks, a title shot or two, and he'll be on top of the world. This is no slick newcomer. He's paid his dues in the UWF and World Class."

Jack Brisco is a two-time former NWA World champion, and a three-time former NWA World tag team champion with brother Jerry.

wrestler SPOT LIGHTS...

From time to time, *The Wrestler* will shine its spotlight on an outstanding wrestler, manager, or tag team. These are unforgettable highlights of the sport's greatest stars, compiled by the largest staff of editors and photographers in wrestling journalism

TED DiBIASE

"MILLION-DOLLAR MAN"

Ted DiBiase is luxuriating in his riches, taunting WWF fans with his money while hoping to buy the WWF title. But for much of his career, DiBiase was a hard-working scientific wrestler.

Ted DiBiase is the son of women's wrestling star Helen Hild and Iron Mike DiBiase, an outstanding amateur and pro wrestler who died in 1969 due to injuries suffered during a match. DiBiase was born in Omaha, Nebraska. Following his father's death, DiBiase moved to Arizona where he was a highly recruited high school football player. He attended West Texas State on a football scholarship because he wanted to be near the Funk family.

DiBiase decided to become a full-time pro wrestler in 1975, losing his debut match to Danny Hodge. He held the Missouri title for 14 days in 1978, and later that year went to the WWF for the first time. He held the WWF's version of the North American title in 1978 and 1979 before returning to the Midwest in 1980. In 1981 he suffered a spinal injury when he was piledrived by The Freebirds.

In 1982, DiBiase became a rule-breaker and feuded in the Mid-South with Hacksaw Jim Duggan. In November 1983, DiBiase won the Georgia National title when he beat Brett Wayne in Cleveland. The following year, DiBiase and musclemen Hercules Hernandez combined to win the Mid-South tag belts from The Rock 'n'



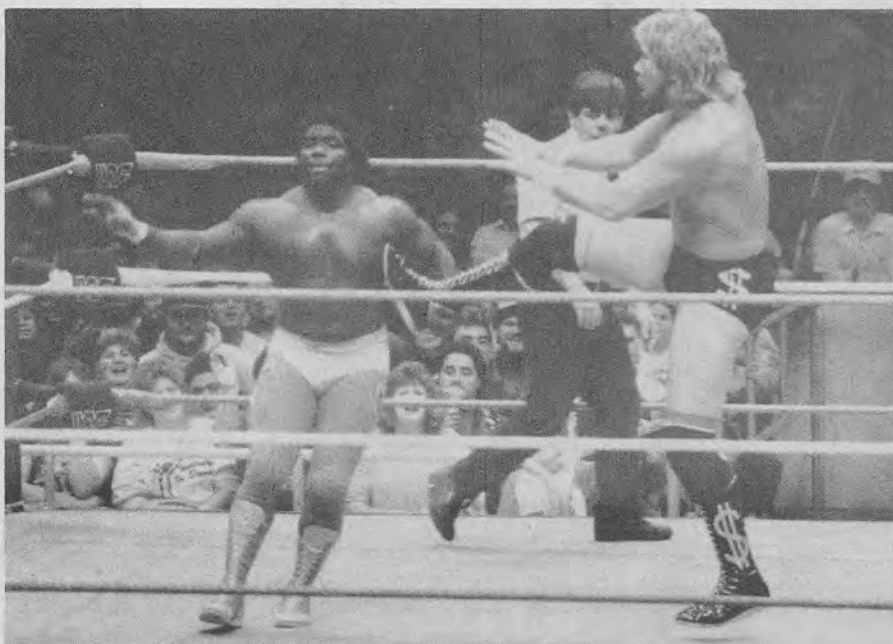
Roll Express. Ted scored one of his greatest victories on January 16, 1985, when he beat Brad Armstrong for the Mid-South area's North American belt. After losing the title to Terry Taylor, DiBiase began teaming with Steve Williams.

DiBiase became a fan favorite once again in 1985 because of a brutal feud with Dick Murdoch. Following a match between DiBiase and NWA champ Ric Flair, Murdoch piledrived DiBiase on the cement floor. While lying in the hospital with the same spinal injury that killed his father, DiBiase had a change of heart. He returned to the cheers of the fans and reunited with Williams to win the Mid-South tag belts on December 26, 1985. Williams and DiBiase engaged in a vicious feud with The Freebirds during the summer of 1986. Later that year, Ted

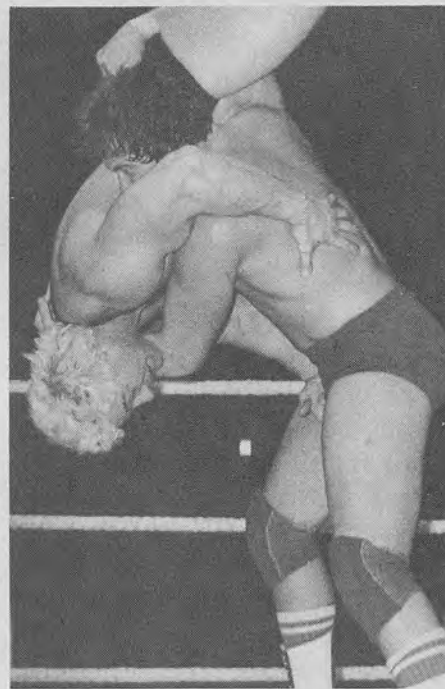
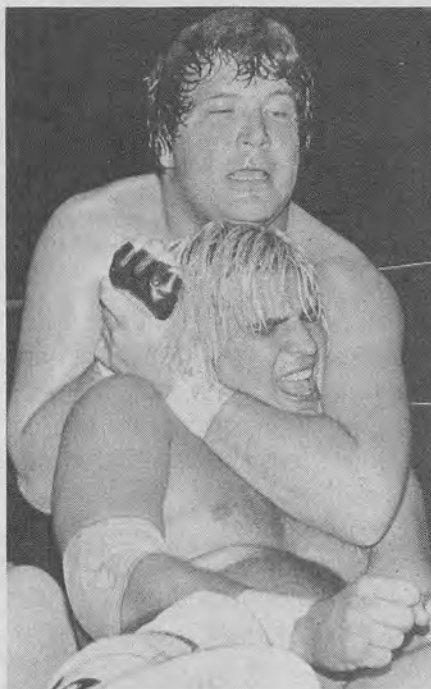
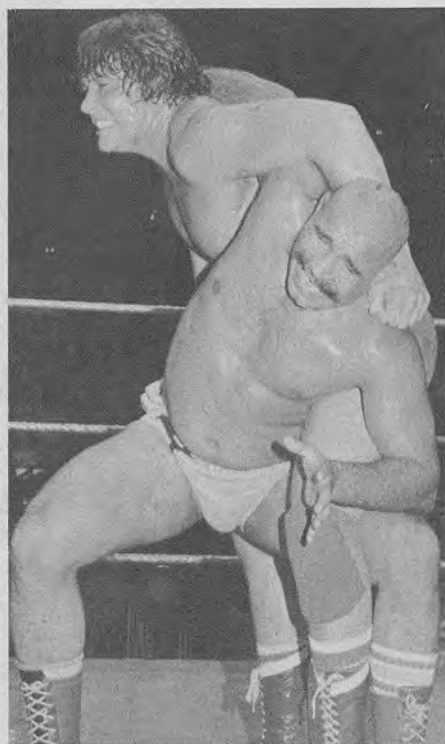
had his ribs broken by former UWF champ One Man Gang.

In mid-1987, DiBiase signed a contract with the WWF. Billed as "The Million-Dollar Man," DiBiase's habit of showing off his wealth earned him many enemies and drew the wrath of the fans. In December, DiBiase offered Hulk Hogan a large sum of money to sell him the WWF World title. When Hogan refused, DiBiase made the same offer to Andre the Giant. Andre accepted and agreed to sell the belt to DiBiase if he beat Hogan for the title on February 5 in Indianapolis.

At press time, that match was only a few weeks away. With the WWF World title in its greatest turmoil, the editors of *The Wrestler* dug deep into its photo files to come up with this pictorial spotlight on an outstanding, but controversial, star—Ted DiBiase.



"Million-Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase and his bodyguard, Virgil (opposite page), have set the WWF on its ear, vanquishing opponents such as Koko B. Ware (above). DiBiase, who held the WWF North American title (which pre-dated the Intercontinental title), catches The Iron Sheik in an abdominal stretch during a 1979 match (right).



DiBiase vs. a Who's Who of wrestling: Rick Morton (above), Tommy Rich (top center), Ken Patera (top right), and Dick Murdoch (right). Brutal feuds with Rich and Murdoch were interspersed with reigns as Mid-South tag team champion and Missouri titlist.





A Rookie Mistake? OWEN HART CHALLENGES NWA WORLD CHAMPION RIC FLAIR!

Owen Hart wins another match in defense of his North American title (left). After taking on the best Stampede has to offer, Hart feels he is ready for a match with NWA World champion Ric Flair.

THE OFFICES OF *The Wrestler* have seen more than their fair share of illustrious visitors this past month, but few were as hotly anticipated as the young Canadian star who jetted into New York before embarking on his most recent tour of Japan.

When he arrived at our offices, Owen Hart was met by a rare full roster of our staff. Senior Editor Bill Apter disconnected his phone; veteran scribe Matt Brock made a rare office appearance; editors Gian Trotta and Andy Rodriguez were as enthusiastic about the visit as kids on Christmas Eve; even Eddie Ellner was on his best behavior.

The excitement stems from the fact that Hart is one of the brightest prospects to enter the sport in a long, long time. Named 1987 Rookie of the Year in the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Achievement '87 fan poll, Hart is entering his sophomore year with impressive first-year experience and an as-

tounding arsenal of both aerial and scientific skills. What happens to him this year could determine whether he helps carry the sport into the next decade—or fizzles away as another mere flash-in-the-pan.

Upon his arrival, Hart's greetings quickly gave way to serious talk. It was anticipated that discussions with Hart would include a great deal of "how I will avoid the sophomore jinx" talk, but Owen took everybody's breath away when he made the following bombshell announcement:

"I'd like to wrestle NWA World champion Ric Flair this summer."

It's a testimony to Owen's skill and promise that our surprise soon turned to anticipation. What a match it would be! A clash of two tremendous wrestlers, one at the peak of his career and the other just entering full bloom.

"I hope this doesn't come as too big a shock," Hart said. "Of course, a lot of people challenge Flair, but I am



Photos by Bob Leonard

After being voted 1987's Rookie of the Year by the readers of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, North American heavyweight champion Owen Hart has been looking for new worlds to conquer. But in challenging NWA World champion Ric Flair, Hart may have mistakenly set his sights too high

Flair (right) has been challenged dozens of times, so he may not be too concerned about Hart. But Hart (below, against Jason the Terrible) poses different problems for the champion.



very serious about this, and I'm determined to sign the match. I know that to continue to excel in this sport I'll have to face the toughest competition there is, and I can't think of a wrestler who'd be a better test of my character than the NWA heavyweight champion!

"You know," Owen continued, "I've always had the greatest respect for Flair's wrestling skills, because I feel that his style is a remarkable balance of science and brawling. It's not my style, of course, but I think my style, given maturity, is better. And I

want to test my style against his. I've studied his tapes extensively, and I'm amazed at the way he's able to counter just about every move."

It would be hard to give either man a clear-cut edge. Owen is mature beyond his years in the ring; Flair has the endurance of a 20-year-old. Owen is a better flyer, perhaps the best in the world; Flair, who is remarkably agile though not acrobat, is a better brawler. The two men's respective strengths and weaknesses would seem to cancel each other out rather neatly. But Flair's years of constant battles against all styles and sizes of wrestlers gives him a substantial advantage in experience. Hart would also have to contend with "The Nature Boy's" habit of title preserving self-disqualifications. But Hart would have the considerable advantage of his hometown fans' support.

Assistant Editor Andy Rodriguez asked Owen if he thought the match to be feasible; many such dream matches are easier said than done. Rodriguez's

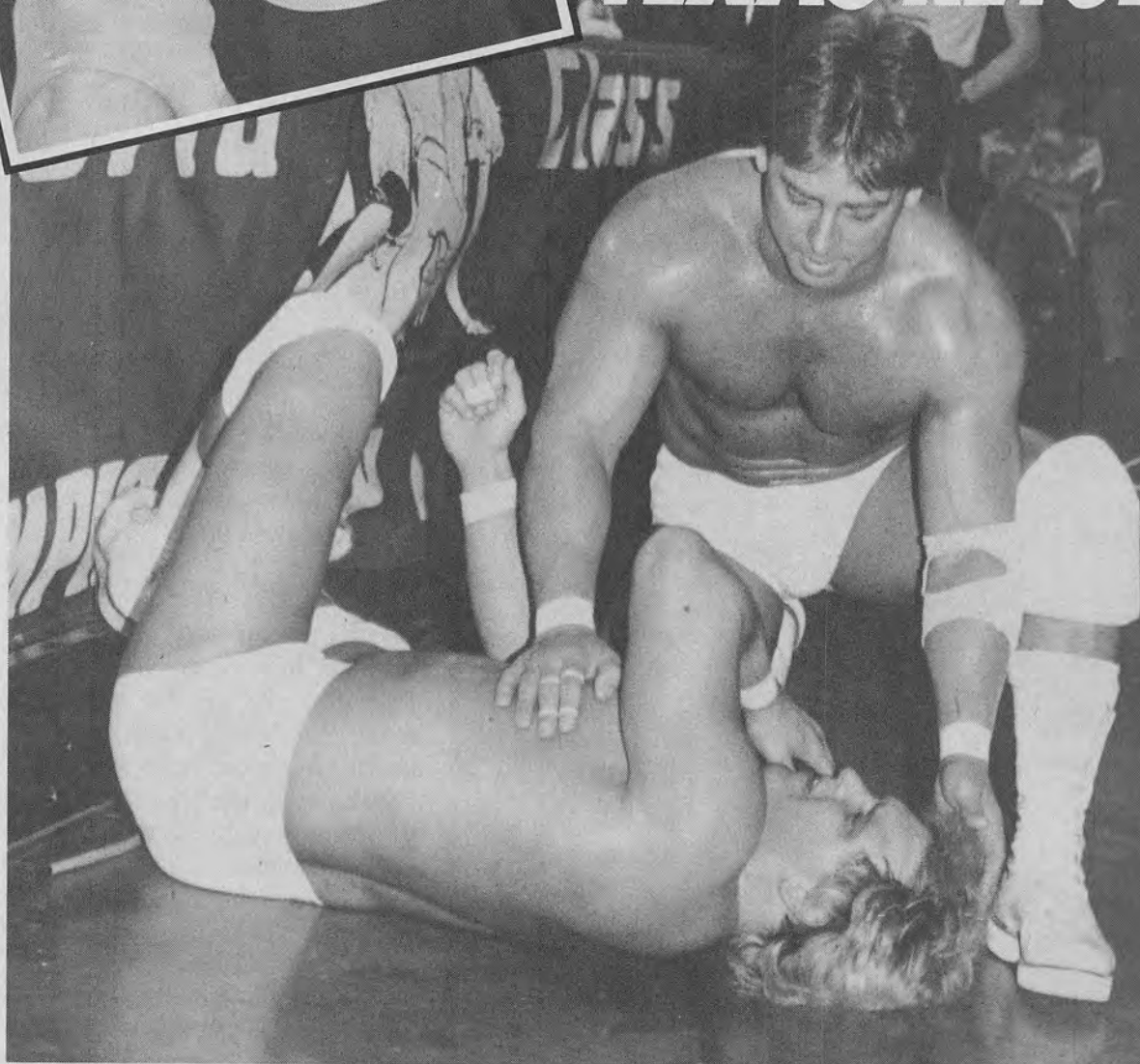
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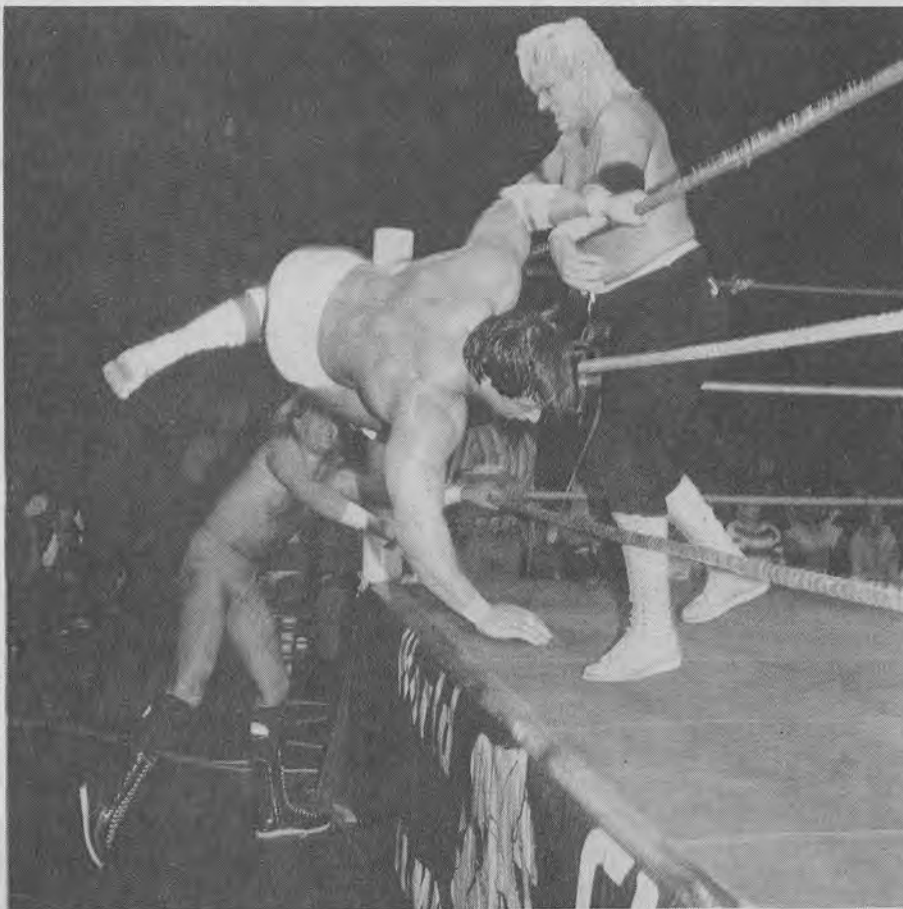


***John Tatum
& Jack Victory:***

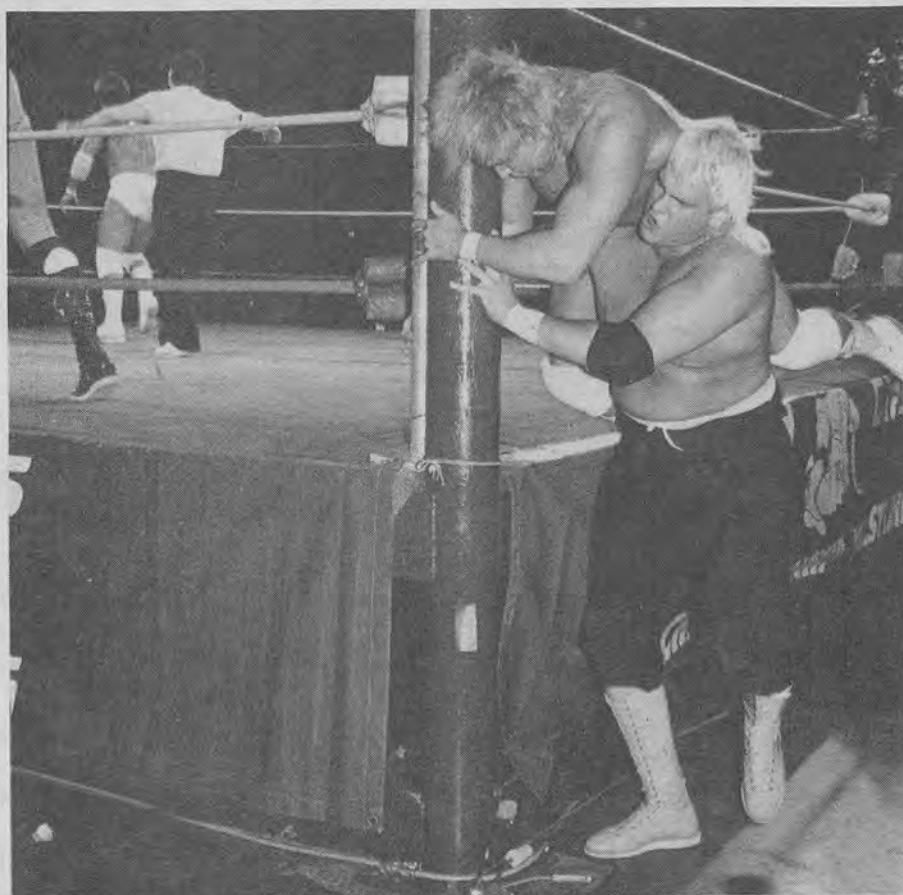
***OUT TO SPOIL
THE FANTASTICS'
TEXAS RETURN!***



John Tatum and Jack Victory currently hold both the Wild West and World Class Texas tag team titles. Only Tommy Rogers and Bobby Fulton—The Fantastics—stand in their way of total dominance of tag team wrestling in the Lone Star state!



Jack Victory throws Tommy Rogers out of the ring (above) and rams Bobby Fulton's head into the ringpost (below). As far as Victory and John Tatum are concerned, hurting The Fantastics is just as important as winning the World Class tag team title.



TEXAS HAS ALWAYS had a reputation for rough and rugged wrestling, and few wrestlers currently competing in the Lone Star State have a greater reputation for toughness and grit than the team of "Hollywood" John Tatum and Jack Victory. Victory and Tatum look and wrestle like rugged cowboys who have just come in after a six-month cattle drive on a tornado-blasted Texas plain. Since the merger of World Class and Wild West, the two have ridden roughshod over the Texas mat scene.

Current World Class tag titlists Kevin and Kerry Von Erich have been too busy pursuing individual titles to actively defend the belts against Tatum and Victory, the current Wild West and Texas tag team champions. But the return from the independent circuit of two old rivals from the past—The Fantastics—has given Victory and Tatum a new target for their violent efforts.

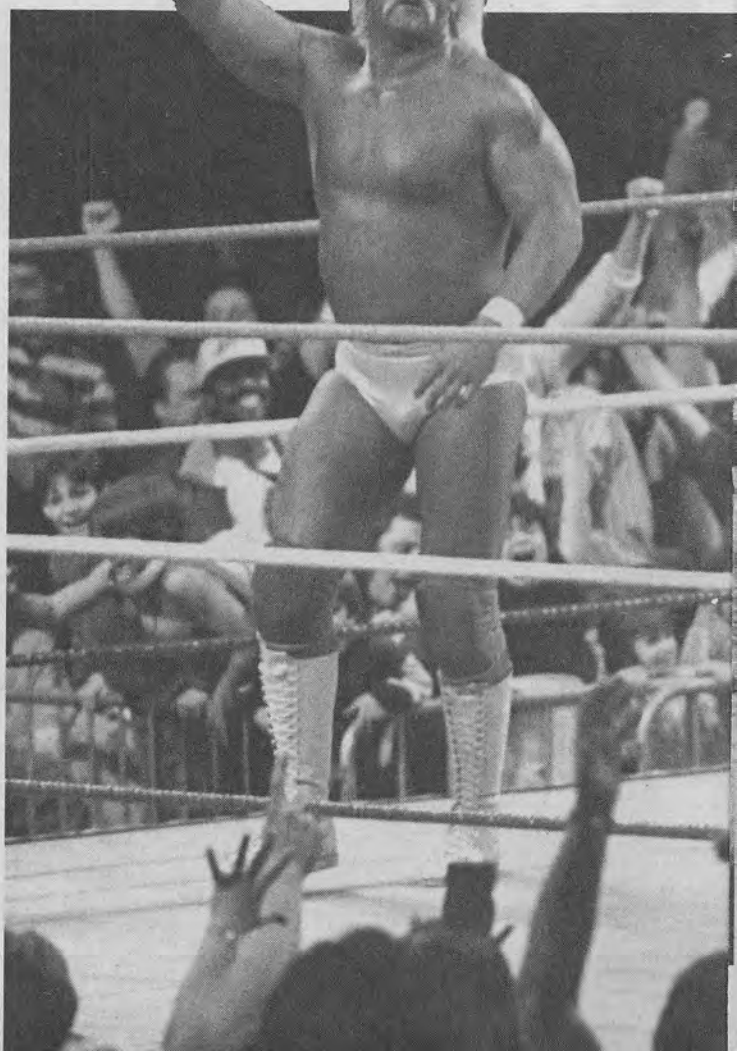
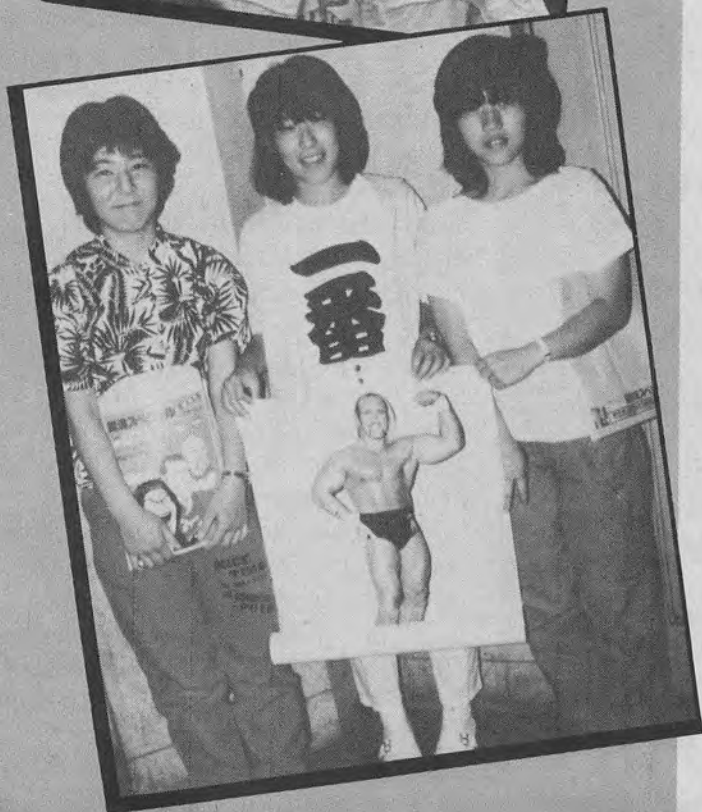
Tommy Rogers and Bobby Fulton are not easily intimidated. Former World Class tag team champions themselves, The Fantastics have long been loved by the Texas fans. They'd like to regain their past stature in the hearts of their admirers, and winning a tag title would go a long way toward achieving that goal.

But Tatum and Victory are greeting The Fantastics with clenched fists instead of open arms. While turning back the challenge of the high-flying fan favorites would virtually guarantee them a series of title shots against the Von Erichs, the reaction of Tatum and Victory would indicate more of a bloodlust than a lust for titles.

"We don't care about breaking records, we care about breaking heads," said Victory. "I can't think of anyone who needs to be bashed more than those two spastic pretty boys. Believe me, we'd pass up a title shot in a second just to be able to put a few scars on their wimpy faces. But it just so happens that they're top contenders to our belts,

(Continued on page 54)

Belt Or No Belt ... **HULK HOGAN** IS STILL ***THE PEOPLE'S***



THERE'S NO SUCH thing as a sure thing in sports, but in arenas from Long Island to Los Angeles—and into Canada—when the WWF puts Hulk Hogan on a wrestling card, it's a sure thing that there'll be very few (if any) seats empty when match time rolls around.

Nassau Coliseum on Long Island is three-quarters empty for cards when Hogan doesn't appear; sold out when he does. The Spectrum in Philadelphia is half-empty for the average WWF card; nearly sold out when Hogan is there. In Canada, the name Hulk Hogan is as likely to draw a sellout as Wayne Gretzky or Mario Lemieux.

He stands alone in professional wrestling as the one name immediately recognizable even by those

who have never seen a wrestling match. He appears on TV talk shows and in commercials. His face appears on ice cream bars and billboards, on book covers and on literally hundreds of magazine covers. It's gotten to the point where the name Hulk Hogan transcends the WWF World championship belt itself.

Indeed, belt or no belt, Hulk Hogan is the people's champion!

Hulk Hogan means more than the WWF World title. He is a product to be marketed and sold. He is a face, a way of life, an attitude, and the idol of children throughout North America.

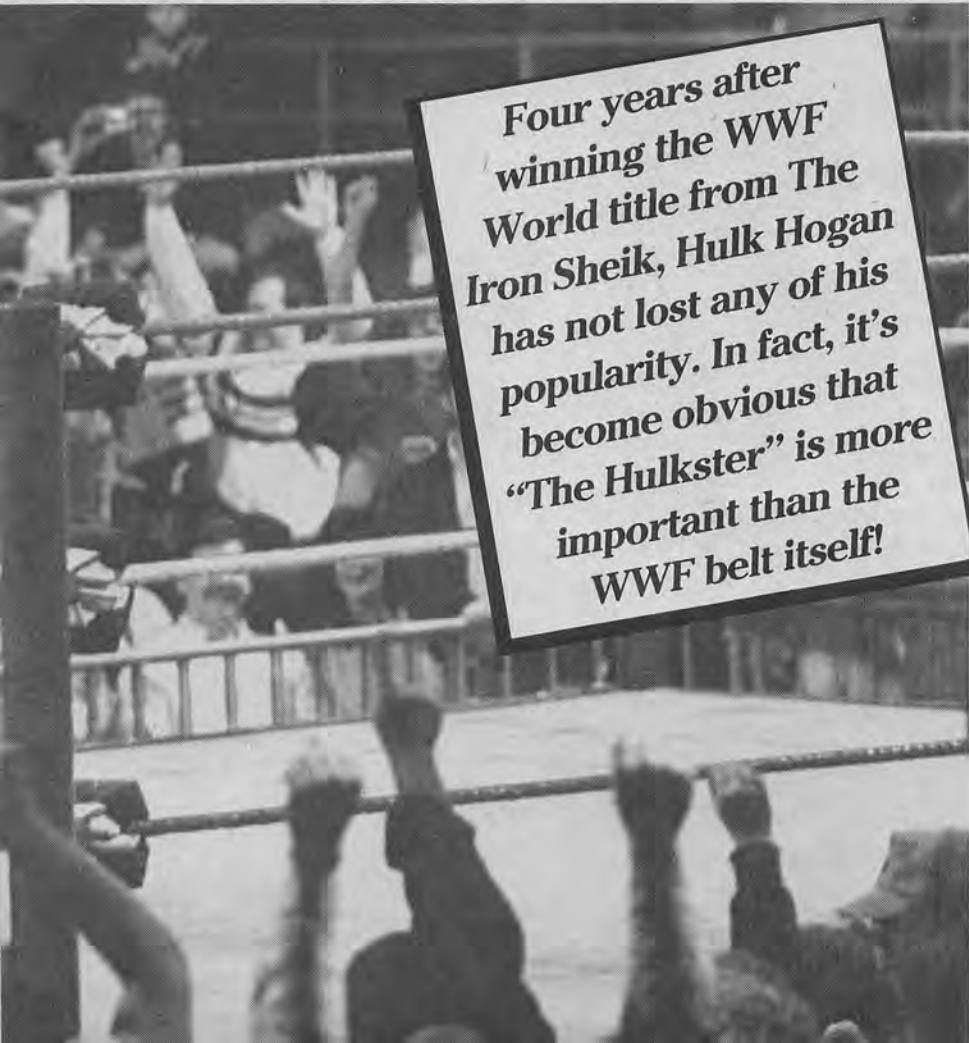
The WWF title is in turmoil. Ted DiBiase's offer to buy the belt from Hogan and later, when Hogan refused to sell it, from Andre the Gi-

ant, touched off one of the biggest controversies in wrestling history. DiBiase, Andre, Bobby Heenan, and WWF President Jack Tunney have all come under fire. The only person whose image hasn't been tarnished is Hogan. Hulkamania is bigger than ever.

From 12-year-old Adam Burdell of Boston: "The Hulkster" is my hero because he knows how to talk to us kids. All these athletes come out on TV all the time and talk about money and never talk about how the fans help them, but Hulk makes me feel like I'm in the ring helping him. He's what I want to be like when I grow up.

From 41-year-old Doris Davidson of Toronto: "He sets a good example for my children. There's so

LE'S CHAMPION!



Four years after winning the WWF World title from The Iron Sheik, Hulk Hogan has not lost any of his popularity. In fact, it's become obvious that "The Hulkster" is more important than the WWF belt itself!

much junk on TV these days, and you always have to be so careful about what you let your kids watch. But I always feel safe with Hogan. He passes on the right values to the children: work hard, take your vitamins, eat well, and always say your prayers. Some people say he's not sincere, but I don't think it matters. It's the message that counts."

From 21-year-old Robert Sandler of San Francisco: "Hogan has an incredible ego, but he deserves to feel good about himself. The man is one of the greatest stars in the world and definitely one of the most entertaining. Even those times he was on *The Tonight Show* with Joan Rivers, he was as comfortable in front of a camera as any of the big movie stars. He comes off as being genuine. I like him because I can believe him."

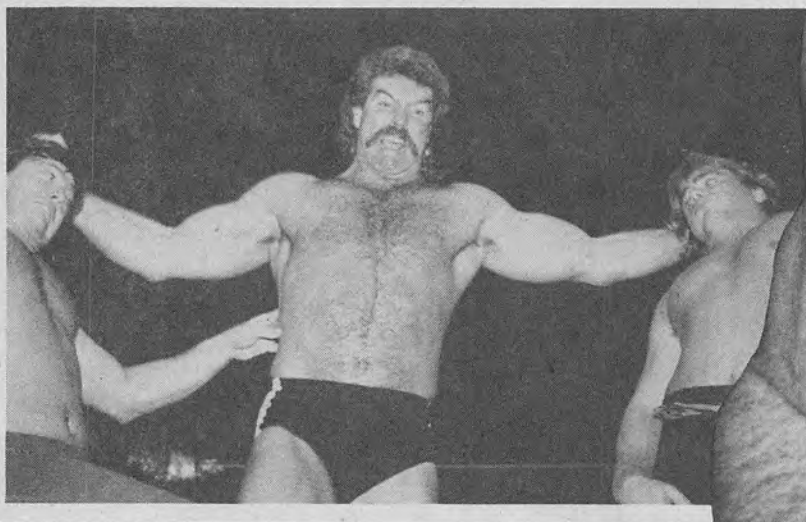
From 16-year-old Stacey Robinson of Dallas: "He's no sex symbol or anything, but he's not a bad-

(Continued on page 61)

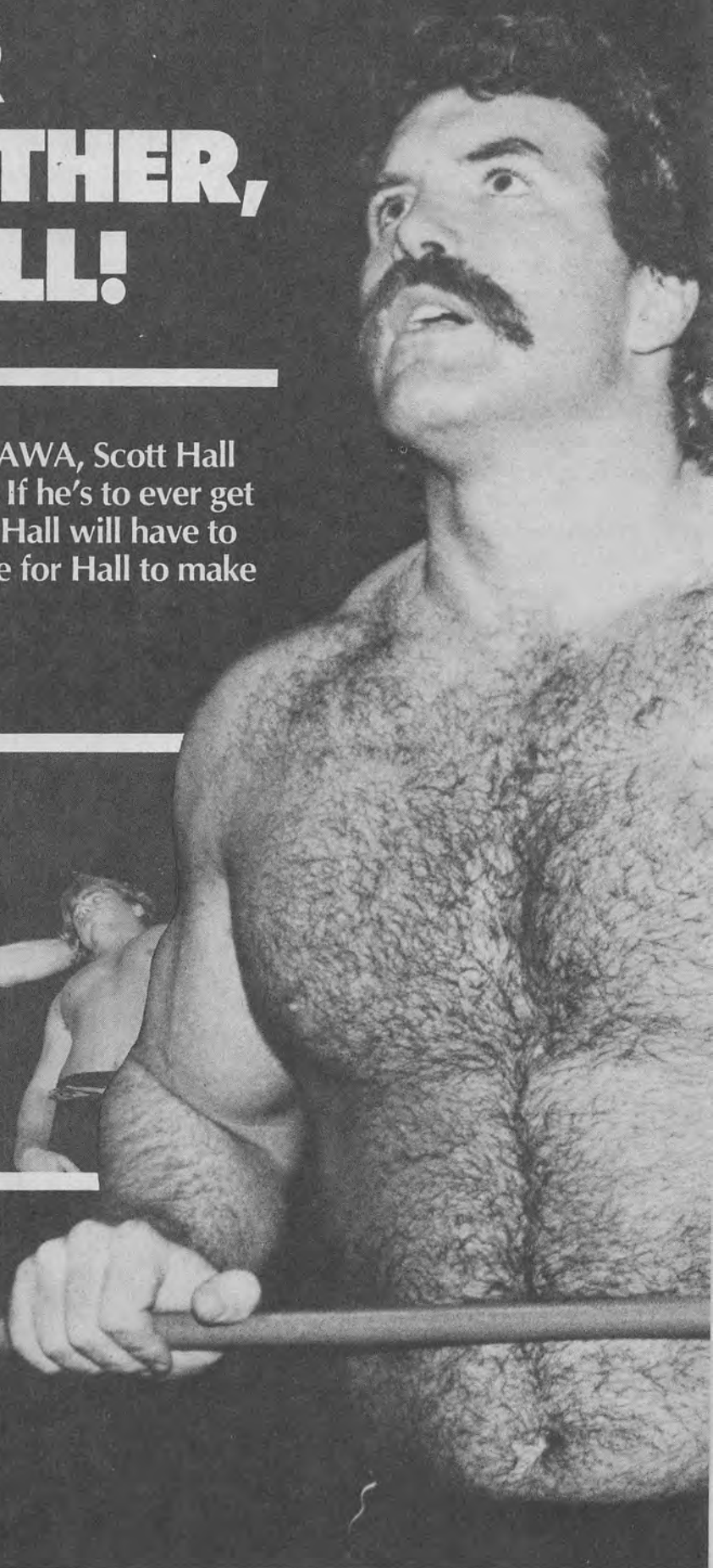
Memo To A Should-Be Champion:

GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER, SCOTT HALL!

Once considered the future of the AWA, Scott Hall must now consider his own future. If he's to ever get back on the path to superstardom, Hall will have to make 1988 a very big year. It's time for Hall to make his move—now!



The powerful Scott Hall slams the heads of Marty Jannetty and Shawn Michaels. Since becoming a professional wrestler, Hall has not lived up to the great expectations that were pegged on him in his rookie year.



WRESTLING PROMOTERS TAKE one look at Scott Hall and drool. The tall (6'8" and 290 pounds), dark, and handsome young man looks like he can rule the wrestling world at will, drawing the men to matches with his power and domination of opponents, the women with his classic good looks.

Then they take one look at Hall's record and sigh disappointedly: runner-up for Most Improved Wrestler of 1986, AWA World tag team champion with Curt Hennig for four months of that same year ... and

nothing else. No singles titles to show for his four years in the game. And over the past year, he's floated from the AWA to Florida to Japan to Memphis, back to Japan, and then back to Memphis. With little result.

Scott Hall is a supreme talent on a roundabout road to nowhere. He is drowning in his potential, trying to live up to his press releases.

The April 1986 issue of our sister publication *Inside Wrestling* haunts his every move. In "Ready For The Hall Of Fame: The AWA's Future Is In Scott Hall's Hands!" we wrote:

... and as Flair did over the decade that followed his debut, Scott Hall has the potential to galvanize the sport of professional wrestling through his formidable size and his ever-developing skills (learned at the hands of such ringmasters as Flair, Barry Windham, Magnum T.A., Terry Taylor, Harley Race, Pat O'Connor, Curt Hennig, and Rick Martel). Indeed, Scott Hall could do for a suffering AWA what Flair did for the

NWA, or what Hulk Hogan has done for the WWF over the years.

But he didn't. Hall got caught up in a senseless feud with the South African madman Col. DeBeers and eventually fled from the area. In Florida, his title hopes were again sidetracked by a feud with Kevin Sullivan and Sir Oliver Humperdink. Wherever he goes, Hall is targeted for evil. Each time, he falls into the trap—only the trap is his own.

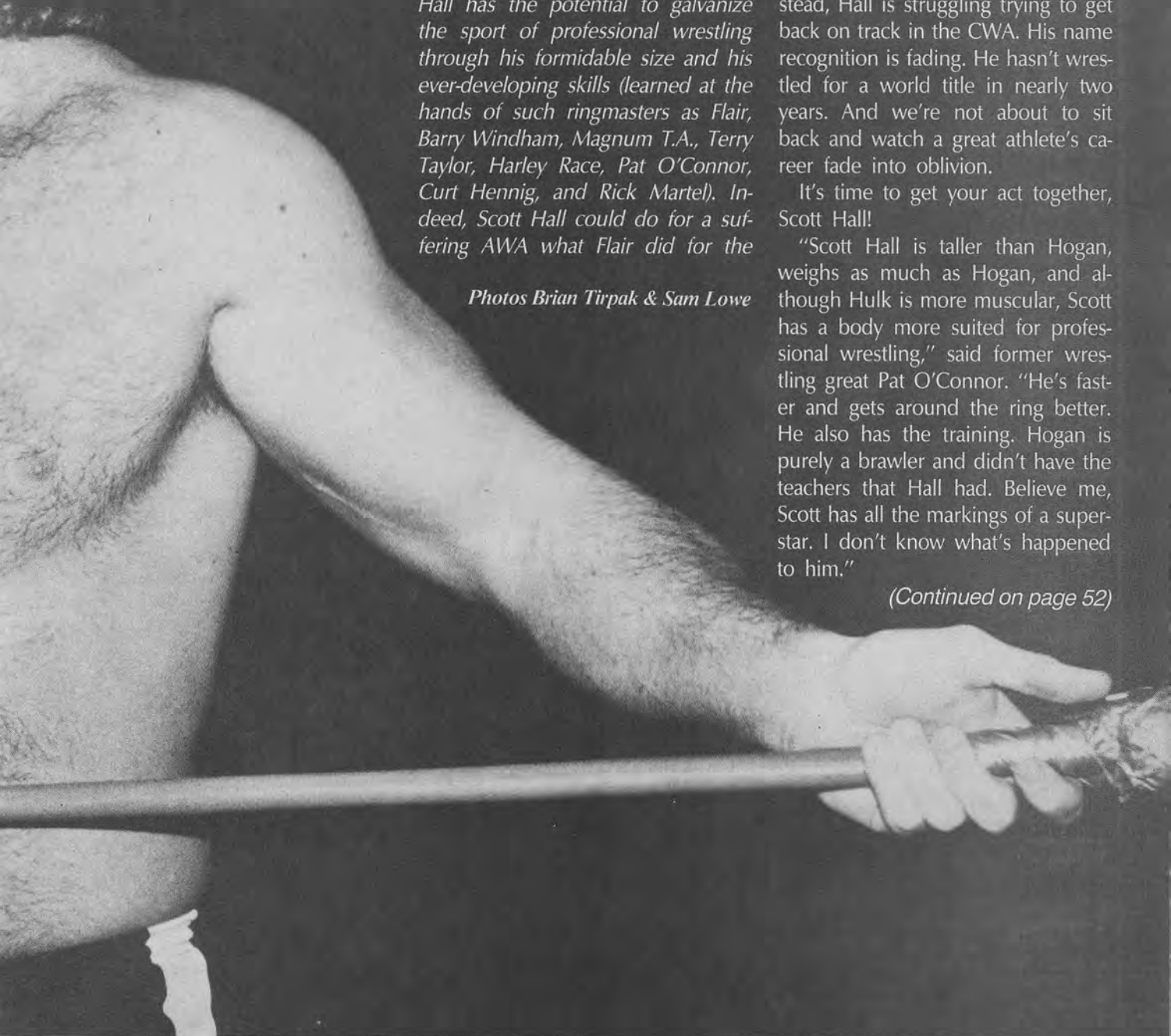
The editors of *The Wrestler* are deeply disturbed by Hall's career course. The Scott Hall career blueprint called for a world championship by 1987; 1988 at the latest. Instead, Hall is struggling trying to get back on track in the CWA. His name recognition is fading. He hasn't wrestled for a world title in nearly two years. And we're not about to sit back and watch a great athlete's career fade into oblivion.

It's time to get your act together, Scott Hall!

"Scott Hall is taller than Hogan, weighs as much as Hogan, and although Hulk is more muscular, Scott has a body more suited for professional wrestling," said former wrestling great Pat O'Connor. "He's faster and gets around the ring better. He also has the training. Hogan is purely a brawler and didn't have the teachers that Hall had. Believe me, Scott has all the markings of a superstar. I don't know what's happened to him."

(Continued on page 52)

Photos Brian Tirpak & Sam Lowe



WHILE FANS AROUND the world circled February 5 on their wrestling calendars—the night of the long-awaited Andre the Giant vs. Hulk Hogan rematch—those with a sense of history, and the future, eagerly anticipated the following evening in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Lex Luger and Barry Windham were scheduled to wrestle Ric Flair and Arn Anderson in a match with serious implications for all

involved:

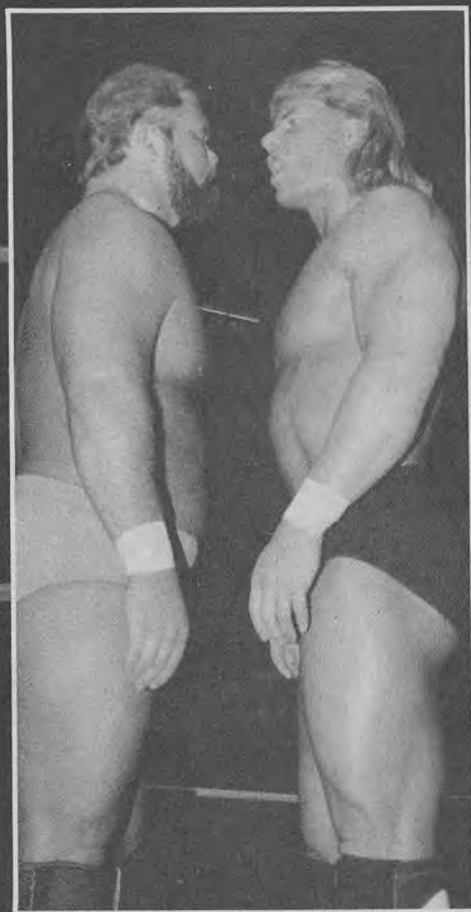
●For the first time since their memorable meetings in 1986, when Lex was a rookie champion in Florida, Luger and Flair would be on opposite sides of the ring; their battles were put on hold when Luger joined The Four Horsemen last February.

●For the first time since late 1986, Windham and Luger, former tag team partners who reconciled on January 15 in Richmond, Virgin-

ia, would team again; Luger and Windham were an outstanding duo with youth and unlimited potential.

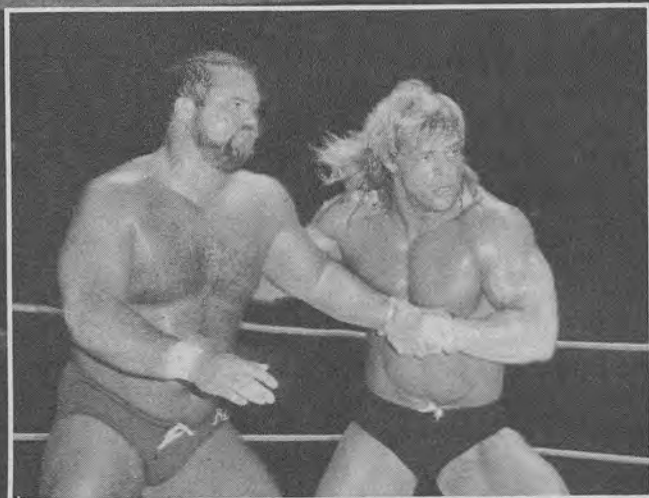
●Windham had already received—and turned down—an offer from J.J. Dillon to join the Horsemen. Was his teaming with Luger merely a smokescreen for a possible three-on-one attack with Anderson and Flair? Was Windham, in the most devious way possible, merely plotting revenge

LEX LUGER'S PLAN TO DESTROY THE HORSEMEN!



Arn Anderson and Lex Luger (above) are out to get each other. Arn chinlocks Luger (top right), but Luger regains the advantage (right) and flips Arn to the mat (opposite page). Luger wants to prove he can make it without the Horsemen, while Arn wants to punish his ex-partner.

Hit Number One: Arn Anderson



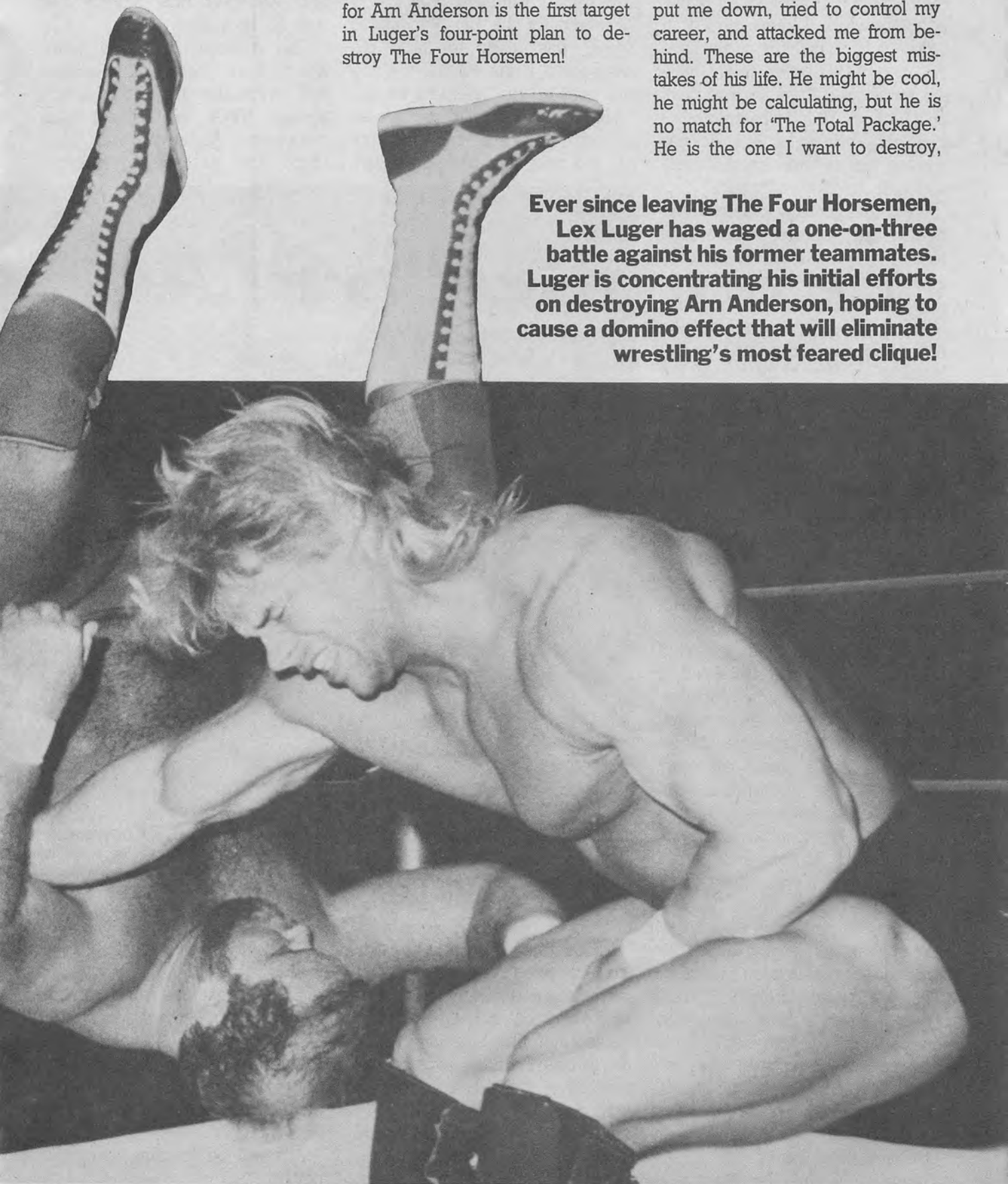
against Luger for ignoring his pleas to stay away from the Horsemen last year?

● Perhaps most importantly, and

certainly most subtly, Luger and Arn Anderson were sure to go head-to-head at some point in the match; Luger wanted it that way, for Arn Anderson is the first target in Luger's four-point plan to destroy The Four Horsemen!

"Arn Anderson has no way to get out of this," said Luger. "There's no escape. He has challenged me time and again. He has put me down, tried to control my career, and attacked me from behind. These are the biggest mistakes of his life. He might be cool, he might be calculating, but he is no match for 'The Total Package.' He is the one I want to destroy,

Ever since leaving The Four Horsemen, Lex Luger has waged a one-on-three battle against his former teammates. Luger is concentrating his initial efforts on destroying Arn Anderson, hoping to cause a domino effect that will eliminate wrestling's most feared clique!



because when he is gone the rest of the Horsemen will come tumbling down with him.

"I spent one full year with these men," Luger continued. "I know how they work, I know their strategies. Tully Blanchard might have the money, J.J. Dillon might have the brains, and Ric Flair may think he's a classy World champion, but it all comes down to Arn. He was there when the Horsemen started, and only he can end them."

Luger has already defeated Anderson in several one-on-one meetings, but has yet to seriously injure Arn or make him entertain thoughts of retreating. At the Philadelphia Civic Center in January, Luger had Arn caught in a painful bearhug for most of the match, but for some reason held off on seriously punishing his former teammate. Finally, Luger tossed Anderson into the ropes, floored him with a clothesline, and easily scored the pin.

This has led some observers, including Windham, to conclude that Luger is waiting for the proper moment before he knocks off Anderson. "Arn is a crafty individual, but there's no doubt in my mind that Lex could tear him to shreds if he wanted to," said Windham. "Talk about Arn and you're talking about an above average singles grappler and a great tag team wrestler. Talk about Lex and you're into a whole new galaxy. Arn is a star who's reached a career plateau; Lex is a superstar whose potential still hasn't been fulfilled."

With Windham at his side, Luger has only improved his chances of achieving greatness. The two hadn't spoken to each other in over a year when they finally buried the hatchet in Richmond. Windham was wrestling Blanchard and had him pinned after 27 minutes. Suddenly, however, the match was stopped when J.J. Dillon rang the bell.

Tony Schiavone, Jim Ross, and

Luger told referee Tommy Young what had happened. After Young watched a replay, the match was ordered to continue. Almost immediately, Blanchard rolled up Windham for the pin. But just as Young was ready to finish the three-count, Luger ran into the ring and held up the referee's hand.

Luger, however, had run into an ambush. Anderson and Flair ran into the ring and, with Blanchard,

by joining the Horsemen and told Windham he wanted to make amends. Windham said he would, too, and the match against Flair and Anderson was signed less than an hour later.

The implications for the future are obvious: Luger and Windham will eventually get a title match against NWA World tag team champions Anderson and Blanchard. And the Flair-Luger match-



stretched out Luger for an assault from the ropes. Then Flair stopped for a moment, looked at Windham, and said, "Go for it! This is your chance to become a Horseman!"

Those in attendance at the arena later reported that the following moment of indecision seemed like an eternity, but in reality Windham wasted little time smashing Flair to the canvas. Sting led several wrestlers from the dressing room to help clear the ring.

This set up the February 6 show-down. On an interview later, Luger admitted that he made a mistake

Luger has Arn pinned, but Tully Blanchard interferes. Such tactics will be a constant problem for Luger as long as he wages his war against the Horsemen. Arn is Luger's first Horseman target.

es will resume; it's a natural, both in the ring and at the box office. Their 1986 matches were memorable, and on several occasions nearly resulted in a title change.

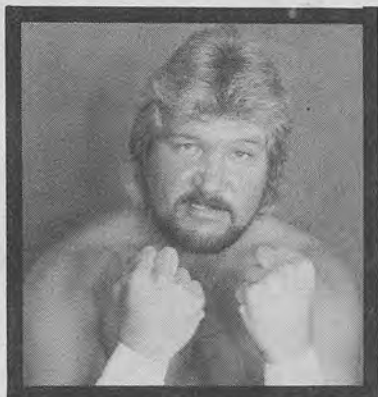
But for now, Luger has his sights set on Anderson. Step by step, he plans to taste the blood of the Horsemen.

Arn will be his first victim. But not his last. □

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Is the end near for **HULK HOGAN**?



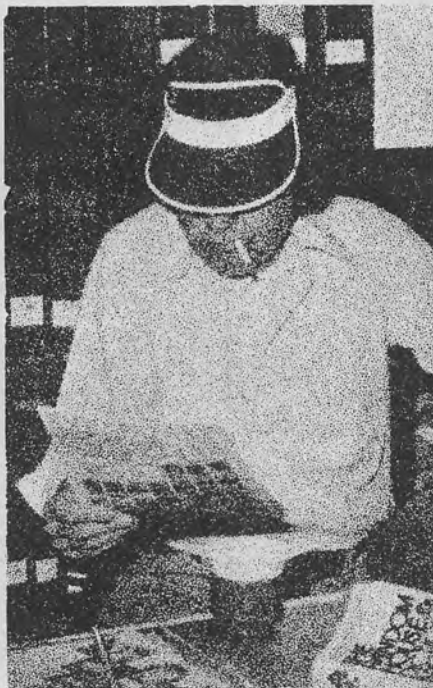
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MATT BROCK'S



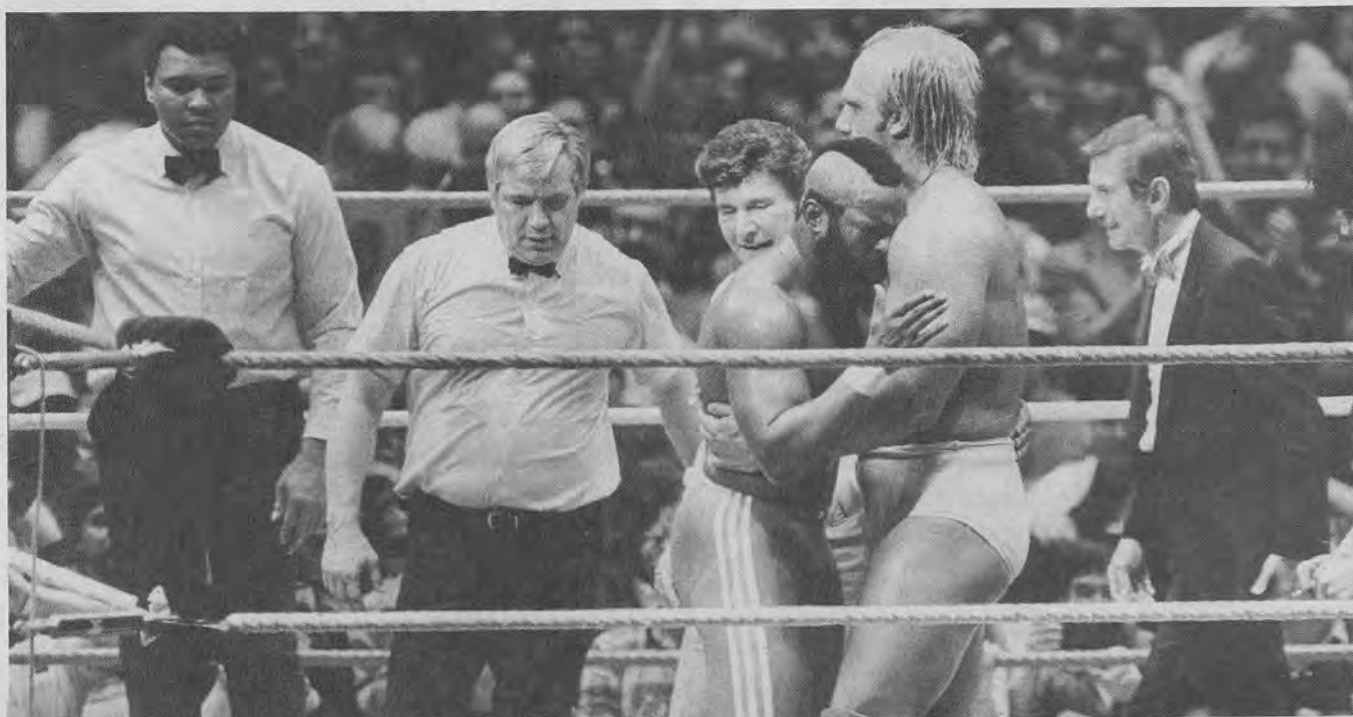
LOOKING BACK

March 31, 1985 WrestleMania I

"Hype, Hype, Hype. Billy Martin, Muhammad Ali, and Liberace. It's called 'WrestleMania,' and if you listen to the endless stream of commercials from the video mavens at the WWF, you'd think it was the greatest thing in

wrestling since they decided to string ropes between the cornerposts. If you ask me, it's pure boredom. I don't want to see Liberace flashing his teeth or Billy Martin . . . We want real wrestling, not closed-circuit hype!"

I WROTE THAT back in 1985 in the July issue of *Inside Wrestling* and I still look back on it proudly. As a journalist, I have a responsibility not only to my profession, but to the sport I cover. It's my living, my life, and I'd be a fool if I didn't



Muhammad Ali, Liberace, and Billy Martin look on as Mr. T and Hulk Hogan rest following their tag team match at WrestleMania I, a celebrity-laden spectacle Matt Brock frowned upon.

speaking my piece.

Three years later we're on the verge of WrestleMania IV and, to be honest, I had hopes there'd never be a WrestleMania II. But things have changed since 1985. Liberace is dead; I don't miss him. Muhammad Ali hardly ever appears in public because, in all honesty, the man is about as coherent as Andre the Giant. And Billy Martin is back managing the Yankees. At least some things have changed.



WrestleMania itself has also changed. It's much more palatable than it was back in 1985, when McMahon created a circus and called it WWF wrestling. There were far less celebrities at WrestleMania III than the 25 at WrestleMania II. The focus of the card was the first-rate action. McMahon tried to bring back Mr. T early last year as a so-called "enforcer," but the public wasn't buying. The man who got rich by underestimating the public had finally gone too far. At least he hasn't tried bringing back the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes.

Remember that? The sight of those leggy dames parading around the revered Madison Square Garden ring (a place where greats like Bruno Sammartino, Pedro Morales,



Highlights from WrestleMania I: Wendi Richter hammers Lelani Kai on her way to regaining the WWF women's title (left); The Iron Sheik misses Barry Windham with a dropkick and hits his partner Nikolai Volkoff (above).

Bob Backlund, and almost anybody who's ever meant anything in wrestling plied their trade) prior to the WrestleMania I main event made me sick. I still haven't forgiven McMahon for that.

I know there were some good things about WrestleMania I. I somehow remember walking out of the Garden that Sunday afternoon with some sense of satisfaction that for all the hype and all the hoopla, wrestling won out over all. There were two title changes—The Iron Sheik and Nikolai Volkoff won the tag belts from Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo, and Wendi Richter defeated Lelani Kai for the women's title—but even those matches had their bad sides.

For one, the tag match was totally out of control; Sheik and Volkoff scored a tainted victory when Sheik used Fred Blassie's cane to knock out Windham. Volkoff fell on top of a dazed Windham to win the belts. It was a low point in WWF tag team history. The Richter-Kai match was pretty good for a women's match, but what was Cyndi Lauper doing at ringside? By the time WrestleMania rolled around, even the most deluded individual

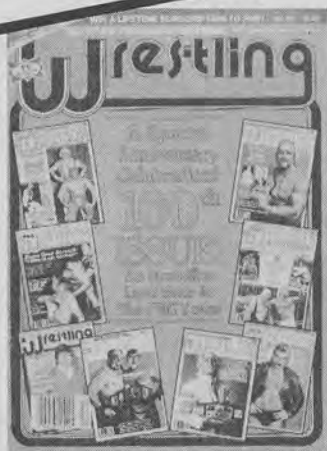
was tired of this orange-haired freak of nature, who thankfully has since purged herself from the sport.

The much-anticipated main event turned out to be less ridiculous than I had thought. Hulk Hogan and Mr. T defeated Paul Orndorff and Roddy Piper. Even though I was dead set against Mr. T appearing in a wrestling ring, he gave a decent account of himself. But he still didn't belong, and neither did the outer-ring referee, Ali, who at one point took a swing at Cowboy Bob Orton, who was at ringside for the rulebreaking contingent.

One thing that will always stick in my mind is all the know-nothing reporters that were on hand for the event. There were reporters from *Time*, *Newsweek*, *People*, *Sports Illustrated*, and several daily papers covering WrestleMania I, and none of them had the slightest idea what they were watching. They were impressed by the spectacle—and that was enough. Throw the mega-magazines a celebrity or two and they're happy. Being surrounded by such ignorance was an experience in itself.

WrestleMania I, 1985. Memorable stupidity. □

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OWEN HART

(Continued from page 31)



Hart dives at Jason. If Hart and Flair do meet, it will most likely be in Hart's hometown of Calgary. That would provide Hart with a significant advantage.

answer came not from Owen, but from Matt Brock:

"You know," the veteran scribe pointed out, "for many years back before your time, young Andrew, NWA champions like Jack Brisco and the Funk brothers would trek up to Calgary to defend the title against the Stampede area's top men."

"Quite right," Hart agreed. "And while the NWA title has never changed hands in Calgary, it certainly is something to shoot for, wouldn't you agree?"

So the dream match of 1988 could, in fact, take place this July. Owen is certainly willing, but what about Flair?

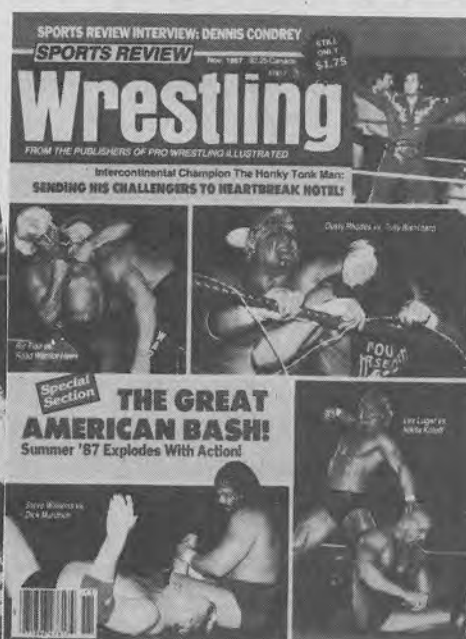
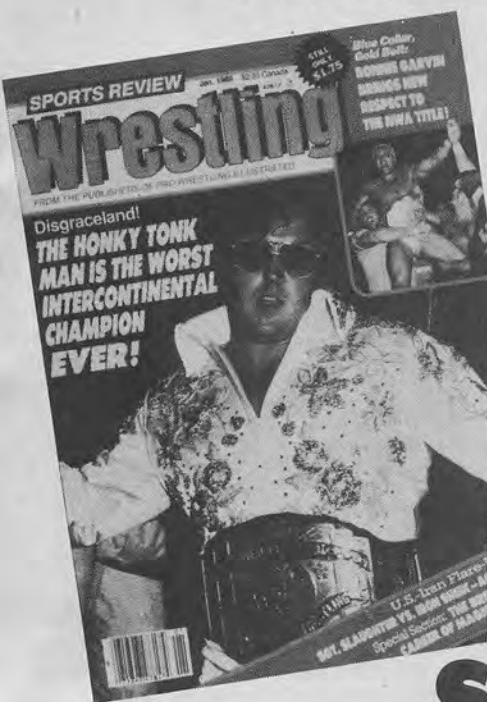
"This styler and profiler has heard all about young Hart," Flair said, "and I must admit that I'm slightly impressed. Slightly. Of course, to challenge the NWA champion, one must first earn a number-one ranking in the

NWA ratings. So when he gets out of his one-horse town and beats some *real* wrestlers, maybe I'll give him a shot."

As far as most of the wrestling world is concerned, Flair's view of Stampede is far too narrow; the competition in that area is better than his "one-horse town" description would lead people to believe. Flair was also inaccurate in stating that Hart would have to be the NWA's number-one challenger to be granted a title shot. If Flair were to agree to defend his title in Calgary, Hart, as Stampede's North American champion, would be the rightful recipient of the opportunity. And, while Flair hasn't visited Calgary in recent years, Hart's emergence as 1987 Rookie of the Year, along with his promise of excellence to come, makes a Flair-Hart match highly attractive to the wrestlers, promoters, and fans alike.

Should that come to pass, a strong 1988 Match of the Year candidate could well be in the offing. ☐

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)

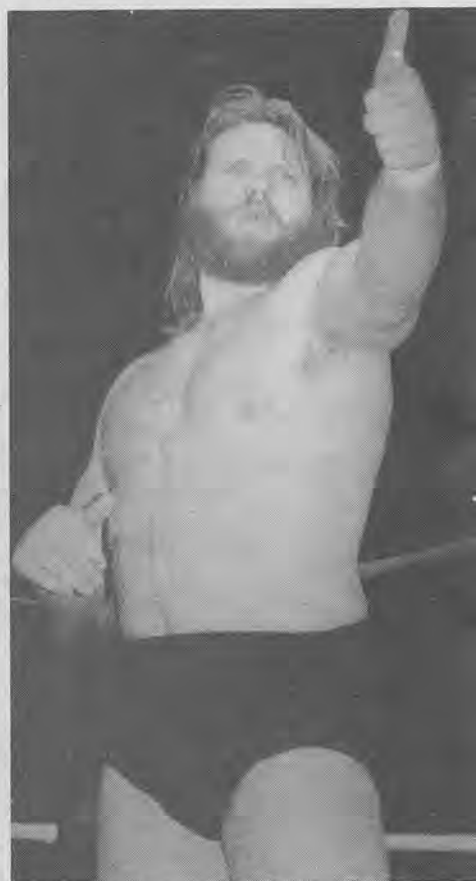
Finally, the action moved to the top of the cage and, with a gargantuan effort, Dusty sent Konga falling to the arena floor.

Also on the card, **Larry Zbyszko** defeated **Barry Windham** for the Western States title, pinning the champion at the 19:16 mark with a little help from his valet, **Baby Doll** (Zbyszko hit Windham in the head with her shoe!).

That same evening, a crowd of over 17,000 at Copps Coliseum in Hamilton, Ontario, saw **Hacksaw Jim Duggan** win the 20-man WWF "Royal Rumble" by eliminating **One Man Gang**. The Royal Rumble was a unique battle royal conducted similar to The Survivor Series. The match started with **Brett Hart** and **Tito Santana** wrestling for two minutes. At that point, and every two minutes thereafter, another wrestler entered the ring (numbers were drawn earlier in the evening, but nobody knew the exact order of entrance). It was also possible for the rulebreakers to greatly outnumber the fan favorites and vice versa. A wrestler was eliminated when he was tossed over the top rope.

The order of elimination was as follows: **Butch Reed**, **Santana**, **Boris Zukhov**, **Harley Race**, **Jim Brunzell**, **Jim Neidhart**, **Sam Houston**, **Hart**, **B. Brian Blair**, **Jake "The Snake" Roberts**, **Nikolai Volkoff**, **Hillbilly Jim**, **Danny Davis**, **The Ultimate Warrior**, **Junkyard Dog**, **Ron Bass**, **Magnificent Muraco**, **Dino Bravo**, and **Gang**. Bravo, incidentally, bench-pressed 715 pounds with the help of **Jesse Ventura** earlier in the evening. Bravo did lift 665 pounds (only 40½ pounds shy of **Ted Arcidi's** official world record) on his own, but keep in mind that this was not an official competition and the weights were never examined for legitimacy.

Getting back to the Rumble, Santana was triple-teamed by Hart,



Hacksaw Duggan eliminated One Man Gang to win the WWF Royal Rumble held at Copps Coliseum in Hamilton, Ontario.

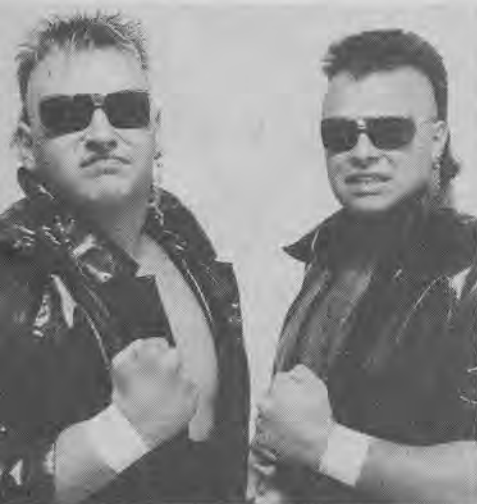
Reed, and Neidhart, before getting saved by Roberts. Santana, however, was worn down and easily eliminated early on. Despite his late entrance, Gang made his presence known, eliminating Blair, Roberts, Hillbilly Jim, Warrior, Muraco, and Bravo, before losing to Duggan. The match ended when Hacksaw ducked a Gang clothesline, pulled down the top rope, and sent OMG to the arena floor.

Former wrestler **Mark Tendler** promoted his first card at the Palasport in Rome, Italy, and drew a crowd of 8,000 fans to see the legendary **Antonio Inoki** pin **Bad News Allen** after 20 minutes of wild action... The WWF planned a tribute to **Mad Dog Vachon** for February 27 in Denver; Vachon was recently injured in a car accident... CWA officials have decided that **The Midnight Rockers** cannot hold both the CWA and AWA

World tag team belts. **Marty Jannetty** and **Shawn Michaels** chose to vacate the CWA title ... **Austin Idol** and **Tommy Rich** are going head-to-head in Georgia's Southern Championship Wrestling; Idol is being managed by **Paul E. Dangerously**.

Mike George won the World Wrestling Alliance's tournament in Kansas City to crown its first-ever heavyweight champion. George defeated **Kareem Muhammad** in the first round, got a bye in the second round, and pinned **Dick Slater** with a backslide in the final.

Fritz Von Erich, who was seriously injured on Christmas Day in an attack by **Iceman Parsons**, **Terry Gordy**, **Buddy Roberts**, and **The Angel of Death**, is reportedly in improved condition. Fritz had suffered partial paralysis in the arms



The Nasty Boys, former Mid-Southern tag team champions, have signed to wrestle in the AWA.

and legs ... **The Nasty Boys** have signed a contract to wrestle in the AWA ... Manager **Jude Rosenbloom** has left Stampede Wrestling. **Abdul Weasel** is now managing Karachi Vice—**Makian Singh**, **Gama Singh**, and **Garfield Portz**; **Bad News Allen** has moved to the WWF as **Bad News Brown** ... Former friends **Samoan Afa** and **Rocky Johnson** are feuding in the World Wrestling Council in Puerto Rico.

And that's what's happening. See you at the matches! ☐

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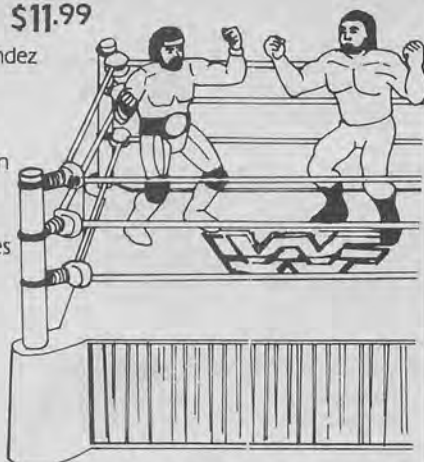
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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 12)

I'd ever be angry over Kerry's good fortune. He deserves every good thing that's going to happen to him in 1988. He's not pushing me out of anything."

Q: "My question is for that wimp manager Downtown Bruno: How can you call yourself the Southeast champion? You didn't win the belt, your man Lord Humongous did. Give credit where it's due!"—Cyrus Burns, Jacksonville, FL



Downtown Bruno has managed Humongous to the Southeastern heavyweight title.

A: Downtown Bruno replied: "Give credit? Who do you think led Humongous to the title? Whose expertise did he rely on? Yours? No, mine! I'm the brains behind the operation. Humongous doesn't care about titles. He only wants to hurt people. So why shouldn't I wear the belt? If it wasn't for me, he'd never be the champion. He was a poor, misguided soul before I took charge of his career. Now he's the most feared man in the sport, thanks to me."

Q: "I have a question for Scott Hall:

What are your feelings about your old tag team partner Curt Hennig since he turned rulebreaker? Do you feel sorry for him, or are you mad because he won the AWA World title and you didn't?"—Samantha Barrens, Norfolk, VA

A: "A lot of emotions run through my mind when I think about what's become of Curt," Scott Hall said. "I'm mad at him because he let so many of his fans down, including me, when he took the rulebreakers' path. I feel sorry for him because he's misusing his great scientific talents. And, heck, I'll admit it: I'm a little jealous because he's World champion and I'm not. But look at the price he paid to get that belt. His experience has taught me not to go the same route. It'll only lead to more trouble in the future."

Q: "My question is for Ivan Koloff: My older brother tells me that you used to be quite a muscleman. Seeing the build you have now, I find that hard to believe, but my brother insists that you once had quite a physique. What happened?"—Craig Billington, Lindenhurst, NY



Ivan Koloff displays an impressive physique after winning the WWF title in 1971.

A: Ivan Koloff answered: "Obviously, you are too stupid to see what I really am. Yes, perhaps I do not have the bulging muscles, but I am a well-conditioned athlete nevertheless. I would have no problem disposing of so many of these so-called musclemen. What good are all those muscles if you do not know how to use them?" ☐

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(Continued from page 10)

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knocking the referee out cold Peggy Sue then went after Elizabeth and began choking her. Savage threw Honky outside the ropes and went to Elizabeth's aid. Honky Tonk then grabbed his Intercontinental belt and hit Savage in the back, knocking him out of the ring. Honky Tonk revived Bockwinkel, but instead of counting out Savage, he disqualified Honky Tonk. Savage then went after Peggy Sue and ripped off her wig, revealing her to be none other than WWF women's champion Sherri Martel! Honky Tonk and Martel then ran back to the dressing room.

In other bouts: Rick Rude defeated The Rock 'n' Roller (substituting for Paul Orndorff) ... Jake Roberts and One Man Gang were both counted out of the ring ... Magnificent Muraco beat Butch Reed ... The British Bulldogs beat The Bolsheviks ... Sherri Martel beat Rockin' Robin ... Danny Davis defeated Sam Houston ... Dino Bravo pinned Hillbilly Jim ... Hercules Hernandez defeated Junkyard Dog ... Lord Littlebrook & Little Tokyo won their match against Cowboy Lang & The Karate Kid.

Calgary, Alberta (Correspondent—Mel Davis): In a brutal New Year's Day main event, Karachi Vice member Makhan Singh met new fan favorite Jason the Terrible, the madman wearing the hockey mask. The match was a brawl from the start as each man made several comebacks and neither man could gain a decisive advantage. The turning point came when Karachi Vice's valet, Honey, threw white powder into Jason's face. Even the hockey mask couldn't save Jason from the effects of the powder. Singh quickly capitalized on the incident by dragging Jason out of the ring



As a member of the hated Karachi Vice, Makhan Singh is an enemy of Jason the Terrible, who has turned good.

and running him headfirst into the wall of the arena, stunning him further. He then removed Jason's hard plastic mask and put in on, proceeding to deliver several devastating headbutts that soon transformed Jason's cloth facemask into a hideous pool of blood. After the punishment continued for several minutes, the referee finally disqualified Singh for excessive brutality.

In other bouts: Bad News Allen, Jerry Morrow, & Steve DiSalvo beat Mr. Hito, Biff Wellington, & Brick Bronsky; after the match, Allen and DiSalvo had an argument that turned into a brawl, with Gama Singh and Hashif Khan joining Morrow and Allen to beat up DiSalvo ... Chris Benoit beat Gama Singh by disqualification when the referee caught Singh with a foreign object ... Garfield Portz beat Phil Lafleur with a piledriver ... Goldie Rogers beat Jonathan Holiday ... Hashif Khan pinned Randy Thatcher. □

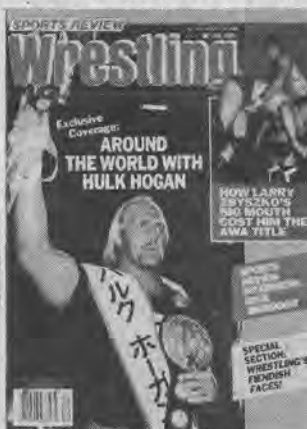
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 June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.
 July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.
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April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Brisco, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.
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 January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.
 February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.
 March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.
 April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.
 June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.
 July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.
 August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.
 September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.
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DECEMBER 1985

December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.
 January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.
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 March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.
 April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.
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 August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.
 September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourney.
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 February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.
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 June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.
 July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.
 August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.
 September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.
 October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Backwinkel, Western States tourney.
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 December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card.
 January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.
 February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook.
 March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.
 April 1988/1987 in Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.

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SCOTT HALL

(Continued from page 37)

Actually, what's happened to him is the same thing that happened to Tommy Rich. At 23 years old, "Wild-fire" won the NWA World championship, but shortly after losing the belt he got caught up in a long, useless feud with Buzz Sawyer. This feud almost destroyed both men's

careers; Rich, it appears, is just now recovering from the physical and mental effects.

The Hall-DeBeers feud was destructive to both men. Neither was a clear winner and neither has been in the spotlight since the feud ended. DeBeers has wrestled for several

small independent promotions; Hall has tried to regain the momentum he lost during that feud and is only now showing signs of being able to do so.

"That's really what happened," said Greg Gagne. "He lost momentum. Scott was really hot for a while. In fact, many people considered him the best wrestler in the AWA and possibly the best drawing card. But just at the time he should've been going after [Nick] Bockwinkel's title, he started getting caught up in the whole apartheid issue with DeBeers. It totally threw him off."

In Florida, Hall had to sidetrack his title hopes when Sullivan, Hump-dink, and Paul E. Dangerously sent a 6'3", 330-pound monster named Tombstone after him. Tombstone, however, never held the Florida title. When Hall finally left the area last summer, he hadn't either.

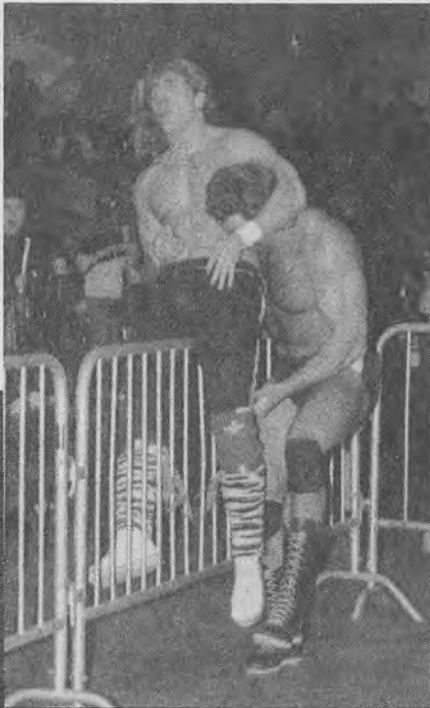
Hall's arrival in the CWA can be taken as a positive sign.

"Many of us were very excited when Scott decided to come to Memphis," said Lawler. "Although it's going to make it tougher on all of us, it's great to have a wrestler like Hall around because he has so much potential for greatness."

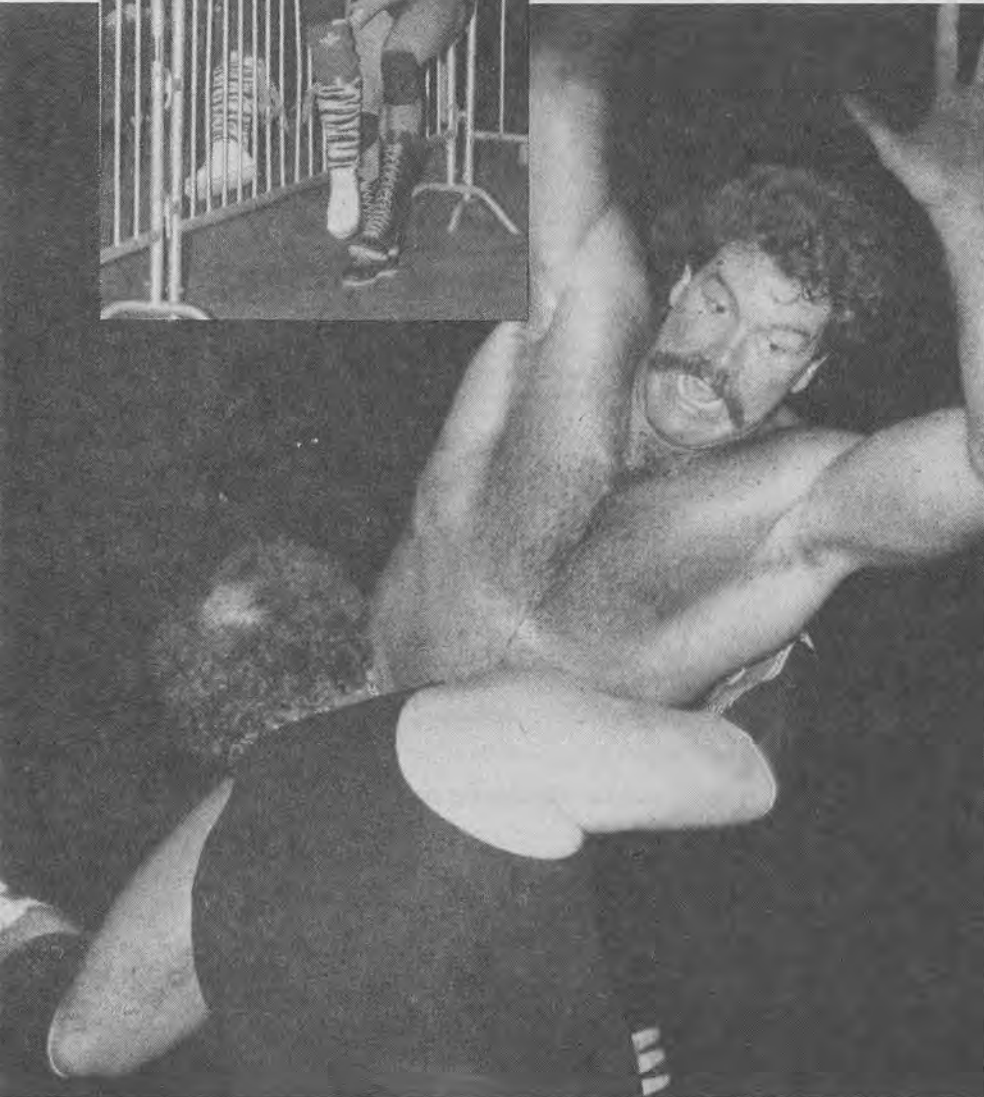
It also puts him in line for a shot at Curt Hennig's AWA World title. Hall, who is currently ranked fourth in the CWA, is clearly within striking distance of a match with Hennig.

He can't blow it this time. Although Hall is still young at 28, he's already lost too many chances. Unless he's careful, Hall will be labeled as an underachiever and his value to promoters will drop markedly.

Scott Hall appears to be on the rebound, but he must go all the way. He can't get involved in any more useless feuds. His one goal must be a major singles championship. He's already a year overdue and time is no longer the greatest of his considerable commodities. □



Hall drops Michaels on the ring barrier (left) and executes a flying bodypress on Don Bass (below). If he can establish himself as a major star in the CWA, Hall will have an excellent shot at winning the AWA World title held by his former partner Curt Hennig.



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TATUM & VICTORY

(Continued from page 33)



Rogers hits Victory with one of his high dropkicks (above). Victory armbars Fulton (opposite page). The Fantastics' acrobatic style offers an interesting contrast to Tatum and Victory's brawling techniques.

so let them step right up, and we'll beat them right down."

"My heart is really in this," Tatum added. "When I heard that those powder puffs had come back to Texas, I wasted no time signing my name on a match contract. And that was only the beginning of our luck. A couple of days later, I ran into Vince Apollo."

Apollo signed Tatum and Victory to join New Age Management, a group of rulebreaking wrestlers managed by Apollo and Gary Hart that includes World Class champion Al Perez. It had been reported that Apollo paid the duo one of the heftiest signing bonuses in Texas history, though Apollo refused to divulge exact details.

"Obviously, we at New Age Management are very high on Mr. Tatum and Mr. Victory's potential," said Apollo. "They are two proven veterans who have shown they can come back from adversity to do what they intend to do and capture the titles they intend to capture. Of course, securing the services of such wres-

tlers does not come cheaply, but I felt the cost was justified. We realize that our objective of capturing every wrestling title in the state of Texas will require some sizable investments, but we figure that the end justifies the green."

While the "we" in this case is Apollo and Hart, it has been rumored that Hart and Apollo had a major falling-out over the Tatum/Victory signing. Our messages left with Hart went unanswered—the first time in memory that the outspoken manager has missed a chance to give his side of a story.

Hart's silence notwithstanding, Tatum and Victory promise to be big trouble for The Fantastics.

"Bobby and I knew what we were getting into as soon as the merger was announced," said Rogers. "Victory and Tatum have been two of our toughest opponents over the years, but we've been in the ring with some other tough teams, like The Shepherders and The RPMs, and we've always found a way to beat them."

"That's right," Fulton agreed. "You get these guys who are always talking about how bad and how tough they are, but in the ring, a real wrestler will always beat a brawler like Tatum or Victory. What worries me, though, is that Apollo will be at ringside now."

But The Fantastics have already taken measures to forestall any pos-



sible interference from New Age Management. The World Class-Wild West merger also reunited Rogers and Fulton with their old friend Solomon Grundy, a 6'2" 460-pound behemoth who has become a fixture at The Fantastics' matches—especially when Apollo or Hart are present.

Apollo has vehemently objected to this practice. "Isn't that just like those two wimps to keep someone around to do their dirty work? A couple of years back they had that sideshow freak Silo Sam [Big John Harris] outside the ring to interfere whenever they were in trouble, now it's Solomon Grundy. But there's no problem that New Age Management can't overcome! Taking care of two pretty boys and disposing of one hillbilly freak is all in a day's work around here."

But The Fantastics, as always, remain unintimidated. "Texas is where we want to be, and Texas is where we're gonna stay," Fulton said. "Victory and Tatum are the last people who are going to be able to do anything about it!"

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)

both wrestlers. True, Randy Savage lost, but not to Steamboat—to George "The Animal" Steele's outside interference.

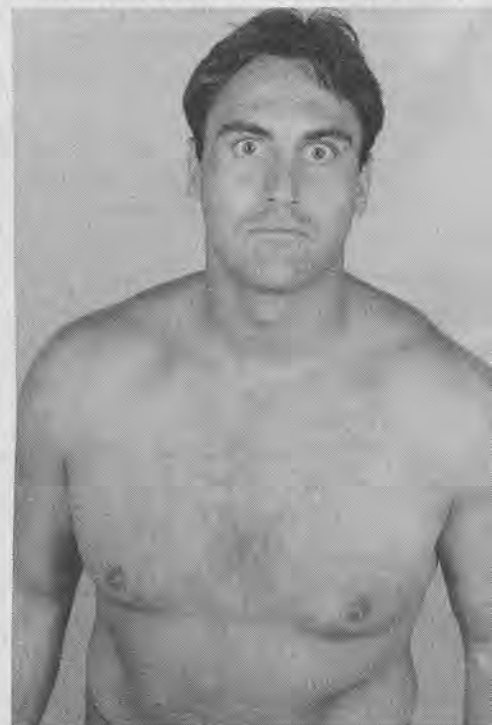
You said that his flying elbow is an overrated move and doesn't lead to pinfalls that win matches. Well, in case you're not aware of it, 99 percent of the "Macho Man's" matches end with the flying elbow.

Finally, as to comparing him to Rick Steamboat or Brett Hart—well, you just can't. Savage's brawling style is too well-organized; you can't compare them. It is that brawling style that will soon win him back the Intercontinental title from The Honky Tonk Man, who, by the way, beat a "scientific wrestler" (Rick Steamboat) for the title.

DAN GRUSY
Port Jervis, NY

A WARNING TO TWO STARS

I've noticed Mike Rotundo and Steve Williams are turning into cocky bigshots. On a recent telecast of *World Championship Wrestling*, Ro-



Mike Rotundo's turn to rulebreaking has disturbed fans like Jason Gennaro, who warns Rotundo that he shouldn't ignore his supporters.

tundo said he could outwrestle anybody from Starrcade. Well, he and Kendall Windham got the chance against NWA World tag team champions Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson. When Kendall was pinned illegally, Mike just said, "No more depending on other people, I'm looking out for number one," and walked off the set.

As for "Dr. Death," he's been putting down Barry Windham lately because Barry let him recover during one point of their Starrcade match, but when Barry was hurt, Williams cradled him and won the match.

It sounds to me like Rotundo and Williams are headed down the same path as Eddie Gilbert, Terry Taylor, Curt Hennig, and Austin Idol. Boys, you had better clean up your acts or lose the fans forever.

JASON GENNARO
Corpus Christi, TX

MORE SPACE FOR AWA

I am writing this letter for two reasons:

One: I am tired of AWA put-downs.

Two: Your great family of magazines doesn't give the AWA as much space as the NWA and WWF.



Curt Hennig rakes Wahoo McDaniel's eyes. Such matches make the AWA an exciting organization, writes Jerry Parent.

The AWA has the sport's third world title. That in itself should make you provide the AWA with more space. The AWA has improved dramatically this past year, and they get national exposure on ESPN. The AWA has made some of the super-

(Continued on page 58)

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 57)

stars of today, including Hulk Hogan, Jesse Ventura, Rick Martel, and Ken Patera. The AWA has the superstars of tomorrow. Isn't it time we give the AWA the respect it deserves?

JERRY PARENT

Elk River, MN

STING'S STING

I enjoyed your story in the March 1988 issue of *The Wrestler* involving Sting ("J.J. Dillon Orders Lex Luger: Stop Sting Before He Gets To Ric Flair!"). The thing about this story that people ought to know, however, is that *nobody* can stop Sting, particularly now that Luger himself is in no position to do so.



Sting (with an armbar on Black Bart) could be the next NWA World champion.

I've seen Sting wrestle Flair, and I believe that Flair is in real trouble. While everybody looks to Ronnie Garvin to regain the title, or Luger to move in and win the World belt, I think Sting will surprise everybody and take the title. He's an awesome wrestler, and he's only getting better and better with each match.

Go for it, Sting! I know you can beat Flair!

HARLAN CORDWAINER

Philadelphia

WANTS TV TITLES

I feel that the WWF should add new tag team and singles television championships. With so many outstanding wrestlers and so much TV

time devoted to WWF programs, I feel that this would be in the interest of the fans, who would be treated to more interesting title matches, and the wrestlers themselves, who would have more opportunities to hold a title. Perhaps a tournament at WrestleMania IV could be established in which the new title could be promoted.

WWF announcers must also realize they are alienating many fans because of their many omissions. For example, why did Johnny Valiant give up the New Dream Team? And why do incoming wrestlers like Sam Houston (a former Central States champion) and Rick Rude (former co-holder of the NWA World tag title) have no past? If the WWF wants to continue to grow and attract new talent and fans, they must be more honest and informative as well as creating more opportunities for wrestlers to challenge for a belt.

FRANK ABRUZZO
Ridgewood, NY ☐

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SUMMER 1986/Color pinup: Rock 'n' Roll Express & Magnum T.A. **Stories include:** Flair, Warriors, JYD, Magnum, Williams.

FALL 1986/Color pinup: Randy Savage. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Missy, Roberts, Windham, Luger, Rhodes.

WINTER 1986/Color pinup: Hulk Hogan. **Stories include:** Flair, Freebirds, Hogan, Andre, Watts, Haynes, Fantastics.

SPRING 1987/Color pinup: The Four Horsemen. **Stories include:** Ventura, T.A., Bulldogs, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

SUMMER 1987/Color pinup: Road Warriors workout. **Stories include:** Hogan-Andre, Rockers, Koloff, Warriors, Hall-Luger.

FALL 1987/Color pinup: Dark Journey. **Stories include:** Albano, Hogan, T.A., Lane, Hyatt, Hennig, Luger.

WINTER 1987/Color pinup: Jesse Ventura. **Stories include:** Kerry, Rhodes, Hogan, Flair, Honky Tonk, DiBiase.

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Q & A

(Continued from page 24)



Miceli uses her high heels to inflict pain on D.J. Peterson, caught in Kevin Kelly's slam.

view.) Apter, what are you doing here alone with Madusa? Are you doing another one of your dishonest interviews? Go ahead, start saying how we always break the rules!

Q: Well, not in so many words, but there are controversies . . .

A: There are none! We don't abuse the rules, we use them. That's a subtle difference you guys just can't see. Now get that microphone out of my face and your body out of here before I dropkick you into the parking lot. This interview is over, but me, Kevin, and Madusa have only just begun! Think about that on your flight back to New York. You might as well start writing the story of our beating the Rockers already. You'll save yourself time.

Q: Thank you, Madusa, for the interview.

A: You're welcome, Bill. Come on, Madusa, let's get out of here. ☐

HULK HOGAN

(Continued from page 35)

looking guy and he has the most incredible body I've ever seen. I don't think *anybody* has muscles like Hogan. I first started rooting for him when I was 12 years old, and the thing I liked most about him was the way he related to the fans. Too many athletes these days seem so far away, but Hogan talks right to you. A lot of people should follow his example."

While Hogan is perhaps the most beloved and most popular wrestler of all time, he's also one of the most criticized. Wrestling purists contend that Hogan has few wrestling skills, instead preferring to use his size and power to overcome more talented opponents.

Bodyslam, legdrop, pin. It's the basic Hogan repertoire. Hogan has no scientific background and does little work on improving his skills. Instead, he spends most of his time between matches in the gym, working out with weights and improving his already considerable physique.

Wrestling has only entered the 20th century since 1984 when Hogan powered his way to the championship with a win over The Iron Sheik. The quality of wrestling broadcasting has improved tremendously. Federations actively market their wrestlers on T-shirts, hats, sweatshirts, and videotapes. Nobody will claim that Hogan is the reason for this, but the boom didn't begin until "The Hulkster" emerged as an all-purpose star.

Would a beltless Hogan be as valuable as Hogan the champion? Probably not, but he would still be a very marketable commodity. "Many people who see Hogan on TV or in the movies don't know that he's the WWF World champion," said Madison Avenue marketing executive Francis McGovern. "When he was in *Rocky III*, he wasn't even in the WWF, so that just about proves that Hogan is



Even people who know nothing about wrestling have heard of Hulk Hogan, arguably the most popular figure in wrestling history. His fame cannot be measured by victories, but by the influence he has had on fans, young and old.

popular because of what he is and what he preaches, not because of the belt."

And there are those who think that losing the belt would be the best thing that could happen to Ho-

gan. "He'd start to explore other areas," said McGovern. "He'd start to become a worldwide figure."

Which would only make Hulk Hogan more popular than . . . Hulk Hogan. □

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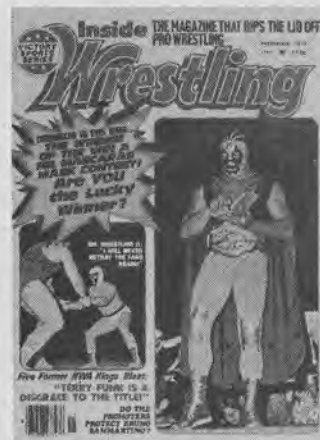
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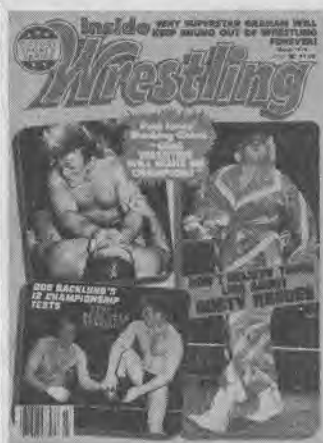
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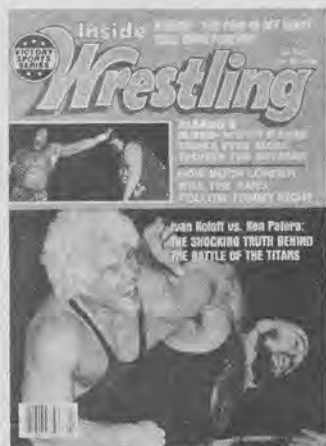
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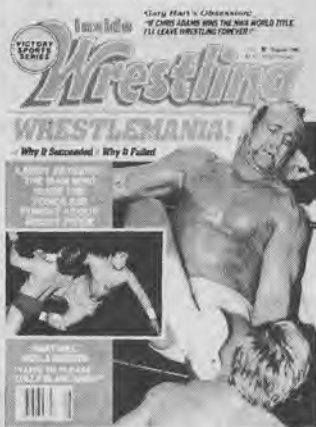
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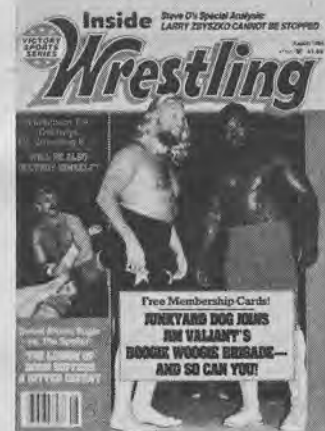
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AUGUST 1984

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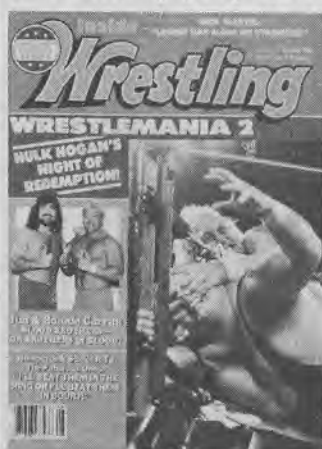
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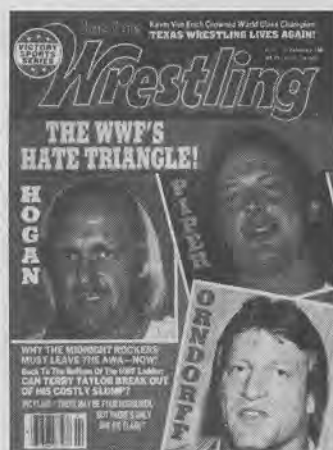
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June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.

July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.

August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.

September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.

October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.

November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.

December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.

January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.

February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.

March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.

April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.

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Jerry Lawler

TOP 10

- 1 RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
NWA World champion
- 2 HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
WWF World champion
- 3 DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
U.S. heavyweight champion
- 4 RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
No. 1 contender: WWF I-C title
- 5 NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
NWA TV champion
- 6 CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
AWA World champion
- 7 LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
No. 1 contender: U.S. title
- 8 AL PEREZ**
238, Tampa, FL
World Class champion
- 9 JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
CWA heavyweight champion
- 10 OWEN HART**
223, Calgary, Alberta
Stampede North American champion

TAG TEAMS

- 1 THE ROAD WARRIORS**
Combined weight: 567 pounds
No. 1 contenders to NWA tag team title
- 2 TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**
Combined weight: 484 pounds
NWA World tag team champions
- 3 RICK MARTEL & TITO SANTANA**
Combined weight: 489 pounds
WWF World tag team champions
- 4 BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE**
Combined weight: 453 pounds
U.S. tag team champions
- 5 BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART**
Combined weight: 515 pounds
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 6 THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS**
Combined weight: 461 pounds
AWA World tag team champions
- 7 THE ISLANDERS**
Combined weight: 472 pounds
No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 8 THE BRITISH BULLDOGS**
Combined weight: 461 pounds
No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 9 KERRY & KEVIN VON ERICH**
Combined weight: 495 pounds
World Class tag team champions
- 10 BRUCE HART & BRIAN PILLMAN**
Combined weight: 437 pounds
Stampede Int'l tag team champions

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR

243, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 2—STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK
- 3—LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 4—STING**
270, Venice Beach, CA
- 5—LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 6—BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 7—BOBBY EATON**
233, Huntsville, AL
- 8—NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 9—STAN LANE**
225, Myrtle Beach, SC
- 10—RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec

WWF

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN

302, Venice Beach, CA

- 1—THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
- 2—ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
- 3—TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 4—RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 5—BAM BAM BIGELOW**
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 6—HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 7—RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 8—RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 9—ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
- 10—ONE MAN GANG**
468, Chicago, IL

AWA

World Champion:
CURT HENNIG

235, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN
- 2—TOM ZENK**
237, Robbinsdale, MN
- 3—WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX
- 4—KEVIN KELLY**
271, Oakland, CA
- 5—ADRIAN ADONIS**
312, New York, NY
- 6—JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 7—BOB ORTON JR.**
232, St. Louis, MO
- 8—NICK KINISKI**
220, Edmonton, AL
- 9—NORD THE BARBARIAN**
316, Bozeman, MT
- 10—SOLDAT USTINOV**
265, Moscow, Russia

WORLD CLASS

World Class Champion:
AL PEREZ

238, Tampa, FL

- 1—CHRIS ADAMS**
228, Stratford, England
- 2—TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 3—KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 4—KEVIN VON ERICH**
235, Denton, TX
- 5—MATT BORNE**
235, Portland, OR
- 6—ERIC EMBRY**
225, Lexington, KY
- 7—SHAUN SIMPSON**
200, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 8—BRIAN ADIAS**
238, Denton, TX
- 9—TONY ATLAS**
247, Roanoke, VA
- 10—STEVE SIMPSON**
215, Johannesburg, South Africa

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

MOST POPULAR

- 1 HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2 LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular
- 3 DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular
- 4 RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular
- 5 NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular
- 6 STING**
270, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular
- 7 KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular
- 8 BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular
- 9 HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
Last issue: unrated
- 10 JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular

MOST HATED

- 1 ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated
- 2 TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated
- 3 RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated
- 4 THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated
- 5 LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated
- 6 TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated
- 7 CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated
- 8 ARN ANDERSON**
249, Minneapolis, MN
Last issue: unrated
- 9 TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN
Last issue: unrated
- 10 RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
Last issue: unrated

For period ended January 28, 1988

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value; 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

- 1—HULK HOGAN96 points
- 2—RIC FLAIR92 points
- 3—NIKITA KOLOFF60 points
- 4—BARRY WINDHAM51 points
- 5—LEX LUGER49 points

TAG TEAMS

- 1—THE ROAD WARRIORS100 points
- 2—THE HART FOUNDATION76 points
- 3—BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE62 points
- 4—TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON ...51 points
- 5—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS43 points

STAMPEDE

North American Champion:
OWEN HART

223, Calgary, Alberta

- 1—GAMA SINGH**
220, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2—MAKHAN SINGH**
380, Saginaw, MI
- 3—JASON THE TERRIBLE**
270, parts unknown
- 4—COL. KIRCHNER**
260, Ft. Bragg, NC
- 5—BRIAN PILLMAN**
226, Cincinnati, OH
- 6—CHRIS BENOIT**
218, Edmonton, Alberta
- 7—HIRO HASE**
226, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 8—BRUCE HART**
211, Calgary, Alberta
- 9—KERRY BROWN**
225, Kansas City, MO
- 10—RIP ROGERS**
238, Atlanta, GA

CWA

CWA Champion:
JERRY LAWLER

234, Memphis, TN

- 1—BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, Australia
- 2—MANNY FERNANDEZ**
245, El Paso, TX
- 3—SCOTT HALL**
290, Minneapolis, MN
- 4—JIMMY JACK FUNK**
243, Portland, OR
- 5—JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 6—DON BASS**
230, Memphis, TN
- 7—BILLY TRAVIS**
218, Houston, TX
- 8—GARY YOUNG**
240, Houston, TX
- 9—MAX PAIN**
350, Iowa City, IA
- 19—RICKY NELSON**
220, Greensboro, NC

CONTINENTAL

Continental Champion:
LORD HUMONGOUS

325, parts unknown

- 1—DUTCH MANTEL**
224, Oil Trough, TX
- 2—DOUG FURNAS**
265, Commerce, OK
- 3—DAN DAVIS**
238, Nashville, TN
- 4—WENDELL COOLEY**
220, Milton, FL
- 5—TOM PRITCHARD**
220, Houston, TX
- 6—THE BULLET**
234, parts unknown
- 7—TONY ANTHONY**
235, Bucksnorth, TN
- 8—ROBERT FULLER**
238, Dyresburg, TN
- 9—JIMMY GOLDEN**
235, Montgomery, AL
- 10—MONGOLIAN STOMPER**
239, Mongolia

JR. HEAVYWEIGHTS

1—NELSON ROYAL
NWA champion

- 2—ERIC EMBRY**
World Class champion
- 3—HURRICANE CASTILLO**
WWC champion
- 4—DENNY BROWN**
No. 1 contender: NWA title
- 5—SHAUN SIMPSON**
No. 1 contender: WCCW title
- 6—EL GRAN MENDOZA**
No. 1 contender: WWC title
- 7—MASANOBU FUCHI**
All-Japan champion
- 8—HIRO HASE**
Int. Grand Prix champion
- 9—MIKE JACKSON**
No. 2 contender: NWA title
- 10—MIKE GRAHAM**
No. 3 contender: NWA title

RATINGS ANALYSIS

This column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 135 wrestlers in 12 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Back to the mailbox. After a busy month of changes last issue, we thought this would be a good time to sit back and read some of your mail.

An interesting letter comes from Brian Adams of Chicago. Brian writes that he's a big wrestling fan and manages to see many major cards because his family owns a satellite dish. "If there was a major show this year," wrote Brian, "I either saw it live, taped it, or saw a tape of it. I have friends all over the country and we exchange tapes."

Brian sent us his ratings for the top 10 major wrestling shows of 1987: 1—WrestleMania III; 2—Starrcade; 3—The Crockett Cup; 4—War Games I; 5—War Games II; 6—Jerry Lawler vs. Austin Idol steel cage hair match in Memphis; 7—The Survivor Series; 8—World Class Thanksgiving show; 9—First Bunkhouse Stampede when Lex Luger turned against The Four Horsemen; 10—Saturday Night's Main Event when Hulk Hogan saved Randy Savage from The Honky Tonk Man and The Hart Foundation.



Lex Luger

Now, on to more serious matters. Dennis H. Byrne of Shelby, Montana, writes: "I am a U.S. Customs Inspector on the Northern border of Montana, only a couple hundred miles from Calgary. I must compliment you on your choice of Stampede Wrestling for your ratings page. I am fortunate that the local cable TV company offers Stampede, NWA, AWA, and World Class. Stampede has good solid matches. From time to time, matches in the AWA and World Class are quite boring, and while the WWF is usually entertaining, the quality of the matches is quite often lost in the circus atmosphere. The NWA is, in my opinion, the ultimate in wrestling, and Stampede Wrestling is a bright rising star worthy of representation. Congratulations on making a superior choice." So much for the compliments. Tammy Glover of Bluff City, Tennessee, takes issue with our Top 10 tag team ratings: "I haven't written in quite a while. You see, after they announced that Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson would be defending their NWA World tag team belts against The Road Warriors, I figured this match would settle it once and for all. The champions vs. their number-one challengers, the number-one team vs. the number-two team. I mistakenly concluded that if Tully and Arn defeated the Warriors in Chicago, you'd have no choice but to rate them number one."

"Once again, Tully and Arn proved they are the superior team in the world. And still at number one in your ratings are The Road Warriors. Why? Are you afraid to rate them lower than that? Have you been intimidated? Or are you just trying to make Tully and Arn's achievements seem less than they are? Do you realize how ridiculous this makes you

look? I, as well as a great many other wrestling fans, am losing respect for your ratings. The message you are giving everyone is that it is more important to have enormous muscles, no wrestling skills, weird haircuts, painted faces, and be top contenders than to be champions."

Most Popular Tag Teams. We ran this feature back in our October 1987 issue and the tag team picture has changed considerably since then. So we thought it would be a good idea to run it again, since the Most Popular Tag Team ratings were well received the first time around. As is the case with our monthly Most Popular and Most Hated categories, these ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our office. We'd like to hear what you think. Next month, we'll do the Most Hated tag teams.

1—THE ROAD WARRIORS

No. 1 contenders to NWA tag team title

2—STRIKE FORCE

WWF World tag team champions

3—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS

No. 2 contenders to NWA tag team title

4—THE BRITISH BULLDOGS

No. 2 contenders to WWF tag team title

5—KERRY & KEVIN VON ERICH

World Class tag team champions

6—THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS

AWA World tag team champions

7—BILL DUNDEE & JERRY LAWLER

No. 1 contenders to CWA tag team title

8—THE FANTASTICS

No. 1 contenders to WCCW tag team title

9—BRUCE HART & BRIAN PILLMAN

Stampede International tag team champions

10—THE KILLER BEES

No. 4 contenders to WWF tag team title

Make way for the lightweights! Actually, it's the junior heavyweights taking center stage in this month's revolving ratings category. As a rule, junior heavyweights are among the finest scientific wrestlers in the country. They rely on agility, stamina, and skill—because they're not big enough to brawl. Eddie Gilbert, Curt Hennig, Brett Hart, Dynamite Kid, and Davey Boy Smith all once wrestled as junior heavyweights.

Keep sending the mail! We always want to know what you think, and we'd also like to hear about any new ratings ideas you might have. Send your comments to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o The Wrestler, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □



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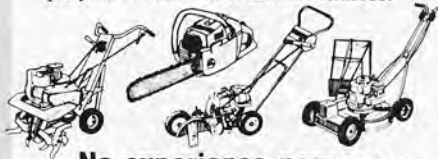
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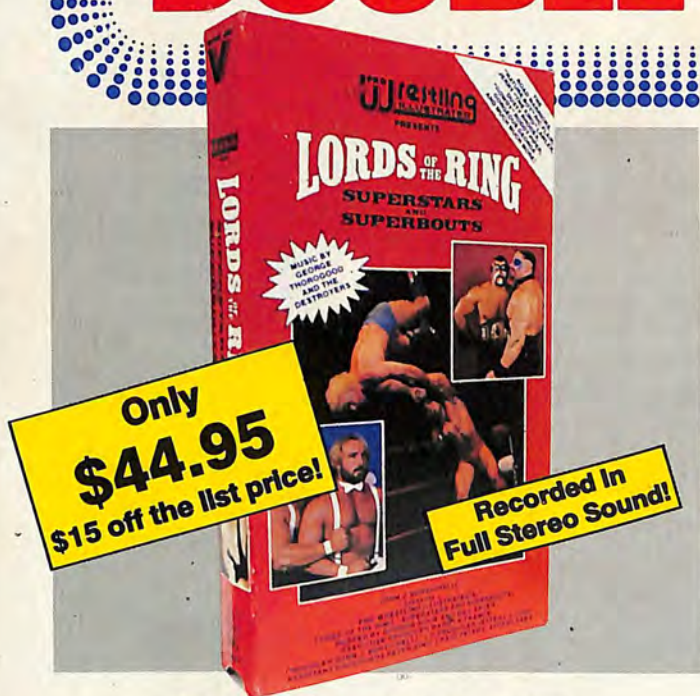


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- The Road Warriors vs. The Fabulous Ones
- The Von Erichs vs. The Freebirds
- Junkyard Dog vs. The Missing Link
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